

Student rediscovers Tutankhamun's funeral feast

By Michael McCarthy



M. Tutankhamun: Feeling lucky.

Another hoard of ancient Egyptian antiquities — this time from the tomb of Tutankhamun himself — has been rediscovered in London.

The remains of the boy king's funeral feast, and of the whole harvest of fruits, spices and grains provided for the young Pharaoh's afterlife have been found remarkably preserved in a series of dusty storehouses at Kew Gardens.

They were consigned there by Howard Carter, the archaeologist who discovered the tomb in Egypt's Valley of the Kings in 1922 and meticulously catalogued its every object, but have lain unremembered ever since.

Now a postgraduate archaeology student at University College, London, has brought them back to light. The sophisticated modern analytical techniques of his department are enabling a Tutankhamun flora collection to be assembled for the first time.

Officials at the Royal Botanic Gardens accept that the specimens, dating from 1325 BC, belong to the Egyptian Government. They are willing to return them, but would dearly like to retain at least a portion for study and perhaps permanent display.

"It is an exceptional and exciting find which came as a complete surprise," Professor Arthur Bell, the director, said yesterday. He has already made an initial approach to the Egyptian Embassy.

This latest hoard of lost Egyptian antiquities, coming hard on the heels of the Highgate Castle treasures discovered by Lord Carnarvon, grandson of Edward Carter's patron, and revealed in *The Times* in March, has been at Kew since 1932.

It was contained in a series of 30 cardboard boxes in the Egyptology collection in the Wood Museum and was unearthed by Christian Tutankhamun, aged 23, a French student at University College's Institute of Archaeology, in the course of research for his Master of Science degree in archaeobotany, the institute's speciality.

The collection consists of sections of wreaths from the tomb; more than five pounds of the seeds, fruits and spices from baskets, jars and a model granary which were supplies for the *shawabti*, models of humans who would serve the soul of the dead Pharaoh in the afterlife; and an amount of germinated barley which had been placed inside a shrouded figure of Osiris, the god both of the

underworld and of fertility.

It represents only a fraction of the food buried in the tomb; the rest is still in 116 original wicker baskets and several pottery jars in the Cairo Museum and the Doki Agricultural Museum in the city.

So far as University College is aware, the material has never been systematically examined.

Systematic examination, however, is just what is now being undertaken at University College, where Mr Gordon Hillman, the specialist archaeobotanist, has identified 42 plant species from a probable 60.

Using a scanning electron microscope and referring to the College's comprehensive reference collection of seeds, he has discovered that the last journey of Tutankhamun was not only intended to be majestic, but also surprisingly tasty.

There is emmer wheat for bread, and barley, perhaps for the brewing of beer; there is coriander, fennel and black cumin for seasoning; there is sesame too, the earliest recorded for Egypt; almonds to crunch and dates to chew; two kinds of juniper berries for a tang; grapes, mimosops, jujubes and other tropical fruits.

There is also a considerable quantity

of watermelon seeds, perhaps for planting, but just as likely, Mr Hillman believes, for absent-minded munching, in age-old Middle Eastern fashion, on the road to eternity.

Most fascinating of all to Mr Hillman is the large number of weeds detected in the grain, more than 20 species.

"They will help to tell us how the crops were irrigated, how they were harvested and how they were stored", he said. "It is an exciting opportunity to reconstruct ancient husbandry."

The Kew find includes sections of the wreath of olive leaves, topped with blue cornflowers, that lay outside the second gold coffin; and of the floral collar of willow and pomegranate leaves with Nile blue water-lilies that encircled the neck of the celebrated gold death mask.

The flowers have not, of course, kept their blue glory, but the dried heads of the cornflowers are as delicate as they must have been.

To peer closely yesterday, in a mundane office at Kew, at the actual leaves that once waved in the wind and then were woven together with papyrus



Tutankhamun: Well-provisioned.

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Irish troops fire as IRA suspect is rearrested outside jail

First test for new accord on extradition

By Paul Valley

A key IRA suspect wanted for bombings in London will provide the first test for the new extradition agreement between Britain and Ireland after his dramatic re-arrest yesterday.

Shots were fired by Irish troops as Patrick McVeigh attempted to escape from police trying to confront him with the extradition warrant after his release from Portlaoise prison after serving a firearms sentence.

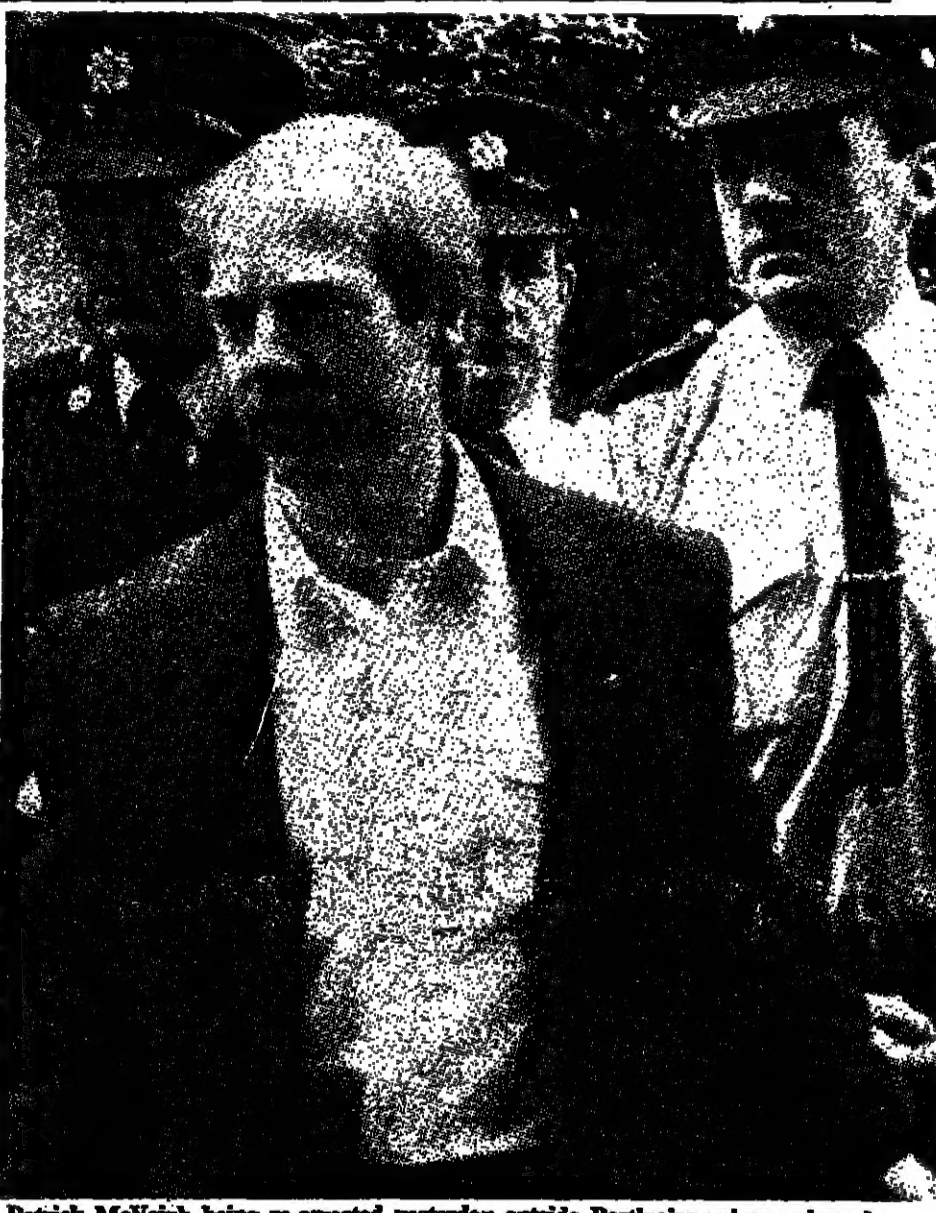
He made his move after spotting police waiting for him as he passed through a "no-man's land" between the prison gates and an outside fence. He was quickly captured in spite of attempts to obstruct the police by a crowd of Sinn Féin supporters, and driven under heavy escort to court in Carlow for extradition proceedings to begin.

The Garda were being the first extradition warrant to be served on a member of the Irish Republican Army. The Irish Republic's Attorney General, had ordered two warrants for the extradition of Patrick McVeigh, the first to be submitted since last week's resolution of differences over extradition (Michael Ford writes). The six-month deadline was broken at a meeting in Dublin between Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, and Mr Murray.

Until this week new extradition procedures agreed under the Anglo-Irish accord had been frozen because of a dispute between Dublin and Westminster, but last week, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, acceded to an Irish request that warrants should carry a summary of the case against the accused.

The Irish police were waiting with two warrants as McVeigh left Portlaoise prison, 50 miles from Dublin, at 4.45pm yesterday after serving five years and four months of a seven-year sentence for arms smuggling.

In an incident which was at first reminiscent of the one in which the terrorist Evelyn Glenhones escaped the Garda's attempts to re-arrest her outside an Irish court, Mr McVeigh escaped along the jail's perimeter wall. The police were then hampered by a group of 35 Sinn Féin supporters who fought with officers as watching Irish troops fired five warning shots.



Patrick McVeigh being re-arrested yesterday outside Portlaoise prison, where he was served with the warrant that will test the Anglo-Irish extradition agreement.

More football fans freed as doubt cast on police evidence

By David Cross

Scotland Yard last night announced a full-scale internal investigation after the collapse of a second trial of alleged football hooligans because of prosecution doubts about police evidence.

Eight Chelsea supporters were freed at Knightsbridge Crown Court in West London yesterday after Mr Brian Lett, for the prosecution, disclosed that irregularities had been discovered in eight of 94 pages of records kept by undercover policemen who had infiltrated the alleged gang.

Last week, 11 West Ham United supporters were acquitted at Snaresbrook Crown Court in East London when the prosecution discovered that some of the police logs could have been fabricated.

When Scotland Yard arrested the alleged Chelsea hooligans, the raids were hailed as an important breakthrough against tough behaviour on and off the football field.

But after the collapse of two cases, the Yard must seriously be considering whether to reassess existing evidence from undercover officers on other pending cases.

In court yesterday, Mr Lett said: "In the exceptional and totally unforeseen circumstances which occurred at the Snaresbrook Crown Court last week, it was considered appropriate to have a scientific examination undertaken of the observation logs in this case."

He said the examination disclosed that there were "certain irregularities" in the form

INSIDE

Will a former Editor of *The Times* make a good television watchdog? Profile of Sir William Rees-Mogg, page 11

IN PART 2

Brew-up

Strong profit increases were announced by the brewers Bass and Whitbread, Bass by 33.6 per cent for the last six months. Page 25

Free thinking

The Government should apply its philosophy of freedom to Britain's universities, says an Oxford don in an introduction to eight pages of appointments. Pages 33-40

TIMES FOCUS

The number of takeovers is unlikely to reach pre-crash levels, but cash-rich predators are on the prowl again. A Special Report... Pages 20, 21

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Soviet blast 'a catastrophe'

By Christopher Thomas in Washington and Michael Evans in London

The Soviet Union appears to have suffered a serious setback to its strategic missile programme after the explosion at the rocket-fuel and motor production plant near Pavlograd in the Ukraine, which was described by US officials as "catastrophic".

Moscow did its best yesterday to play down the impact of the blast, which killed three people and injured

five. Mr Gennady Gerasimov denied that the part of the plant affected by the explosion had anything to do with rocket fuel. He claimed it was a chemical storage facility for "industrial explosives". He also denied that the plant had been shut. "It's still working at full capacity," he said.

However, the United States, which first released details of the explosion, based on satellite photographs taken on May 12, was adamant that the plant was engaged in producing fuel and rocket motors for the new mobile 10-warhead SS24 intercontinental ballistic missile. The blast, according to the Pentagon, would put

Talk of more rate cuts

The City is already talking cautiously about further base rate cuts if the pound continues to strengthen. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, is seen to be back in control of monetary and exchange rate policy, suggesting that further interest rate cuts may be necessary to maintain exchange rate stability (Our Economics Editor writes).

After falling in the wake of Tuesday's half-point reduction in interest rates, sterling

recovered after news that public finances started the financial year in substantial surplus. The pound ended 0.05 of a penny up at DM3.1749.

The public sector borrowing requirement was in surplus by £933 million in April, compared with a Treasury forecast of a £3 billion surplus for the financial year as a whole.

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BBC facing prosecution on legionella outbreak

By Thomson Prentice

The BBC could be prosecuted following the outbreak of legionnaire's disease which had its source a cooling tower on the roof of Broadcasting House in central London.

The Health and Safety Executive said yesterday that it will decide whether to prosecute after completing its investigation into the circumstances of the outbreak. Claims for compensation may also be made on behalf of victims, pending legal advice, a trade union representing some BBC staff yesterday.

Two BBC employees have died from the disease and 42 other people are ill, four of them seriously. Another 44 are suspected of having the

infection. Many of the total involve non-BBC people who were within 500 metres of the building when contaminated droplets of water were spread by wind from the tower last month.

"The question of prosecution depends on whether there is evidence that the cooling tower, part of an air-conditioning system, was properly cleaned and maintained by BBC engineers, and how serious was any breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act, the Health and Safety Executive said.

Microbiologists from the Public Health Laboratory Service have confirmed that the tower was the source by matching samples of the *legionella*

bacteria from it with samples taken from patients. "The bacteria are of the same sub-group in all patients as that found in the tower," Dr Chris Bartlett, consultant epidemiologist at the Department of Health's Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre said yesterday.

Mr Paddy Leech, the assistant general secretary of the Broadcasting and Entertainment Trades Alliance, said later: "There could well be civil actions against the BBC by dependants of our members who have died or have suffered if the evidence shows that the corporation was responsible. We will recommend claims for compensation if our solicitors advise us to do so."

The BBC would not comment on

the question of prosecution or civil claims last night. But in a statement, the corporation said it was "disappointed" by suggestions that the union was not kept fully informed about the outbreak.

According to Dr Bartlett, the outbreak was sparked by a combination of factors which were "ideal" for the spread of the disease. During the days of April 19, 20 and 21, there was high humidity in central London, with a gentle south-westerly breeze. The humidity helped the bacteria to flourish, and the breeze swept clouds of tiny droplets of contaminated water from the open surface of the tower into the atmosphere. A stronger wind would have broken up the organisms, but instead they survived for up to 500 metres.

Boost in police numbers to cut violent trend

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

A big police recruitment drive is planned which could add "substantial numbers" to forces next year on top of the increased intake aimed for this year.

Whitehall sources disclosed the plans yesterday as Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, warned that violence in British society was now so dangerous that it presented more problems for the country than did any threat from a foreign power.

Addressing the annual conference of the Police Federation, Mr Hurd said: "The peace of our society is now undermined not by foreign threats but by the appetite for violence of too many of our fellow citizens."

years ago and which guaranteed some allowances would not be abolished.

It had been thought the conference might give the Home Secretary a rough ride, but he was received politely.

Delegates applauded when Mr Hurd spoke of increasing violence and the problems it caused police. There was, he said, both an increase in the brutality of individual crime and the lesser public disorders seen each weekend and Bank holiday.

Part of the problem was created by young people with Special constables are being used for plain-clothes work, according to a survey to be debated at the conference today. In Norfolk they are used for surveillance of prostitutes. The Police Federation considers this to be an abuse of the special constable system.

One solution would be a rise in police manpower, and sources yesterday said the Home Office was planning to negotiate with the Treasury funding for a programme to boost recruiting nationally.

too much money and too much drink. "It is often the police who get hurt," Mr Hurd said. "Not because of any thought-out hostility but because the police officer coming into sight provides a natural target for this aimless lust for violence."

Mr Les Curtis, federation chairman, said police feared an assault on their living standards. There were worries that the police negotiating machinery could break down.

Mr Hurd announced that the number of new officers available this year will top 800, with authorizations for provincial forces to take another 450 as part of a three-year programme to recruit 2,000 officers. That programme ends shortly.

The recruitment drive next year would be over and above those increases.

Mr Hurd faced a conference which this week has seen criticism of the Government and pay proposals. Yesterday Mr Hurd would not be drawn on pay, but pledged the Government's continued support for the Edmund-Davies pay system which was set up 10

years ago and which guaranteed some allowances would not be abolished.

Since the pay system was introduced 10 years ago policing had changed dramatically. Not a single police force had enough manpower; 17,000 officers were assaulted last year.



Looking back is all some old people have to look forward to

So many of us get pleasure from looking back at photographs of happy times with families and friends. But happy memories do not pay bills. And an ever increasing number of elderly people do not have the resources to put anything aside for a rainy day.

That's why today, in the year we celebrate our 125th Anniversary, RUKBA is still helping people from a professional and similar background, on very low incomes, with regular charitable grants so that they can live more happily and sleep more easily. And we can give extra grants for disasters like a leaking roof or burst boiler; we run residential homes that are home; and provide volunteer helpers to keep in touch with our beneficiaries. In short, we really do care for our family — and do so for the rest of their lives.

We have looked after 26,000 people over the years, from 1 in 1863 to 4,328 today. Please help us to look after another 26,000 in the years to come. Any donation, however small, will be welcome and a legacy even more so. It cost us £3.5m in 1987, and we hope to help more than 600 new people in 1988.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

First cut in home loan interest rate

Home owners felt the first beneficial effects of this week's cut in base rates yesterday when Sun Alliance cut the interest rate on its First Rate mortgage to 8.65 per cent.

This 0.55 percentage point cut in the rate exceeds the 0.5 point cut in base rates to 7.5 per cent on Tuesday.

The mortgage is marketed by Sun Alliance for First Mortgage Securities, a wholesale mortgage operator owned by a consortium including the Bank of Scotland, Morgan Grenfell and Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust.

Building societies have only recently cut their rates, bringing most down to 9.75 per cent.

Takeover defended

Lord Young of Gifford, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told MPs examining the planned British Aerospace takeover of the Rover Group yesterday that the firm would be better off in the private sector. He said: "I believe the takeover is a good thing for British industry".

MPs questioned Lord Young on the claim by Mr Graham Day, chairman of Rover Group, that with the company's debts cleared and four to five years of profits, it would have been possible to directly float shares. Lord Young said there was no certainty this could have been achieved.

Duke's pollution plea

The Duke of Edinburgh yesterday criticized the Government for failing to curb air pollution and acid rain. At a conference in London organized by the Tidy Britain Group, at which he shared a platform with Lord Calthorpe, Minister of State for the Environment, he said he had been asked recently in Scandinavia why Britain would not clear up pollution from its power stations. That was difficult to answer other than in terms of not making life difficult for the Central Electricity Generating Board. "I think it ought to be made difficult", he said.

Gun woman's grudge

A woman aged 84 who shot a BBC commissioner at Broadcasting House, central London with an air pistol, was yesterday committed to hospital under the Mental Health Act. Miss Jose Hill, of Cleverton Road, Blackpool, had harboured a grudge against the BBC since 1939, Marlborough Street magistrates, south-west London, were told. It may have started with a delusion about a film star, she also feels she is being attacked by radio waves. Ten years ago Miss Hill was convicted of hitting a BBC man with a hammer. She was said to suffer from paranoid schizophrenia.

Euro chess struggle

The European Options Exchange tournament in Amsterdam is developing into a battle of attrition. Both games in round four ended as draws. Gary Kasparov (USSR), the reigning world champion, playing black, drew in 17 moves against John van der Wiel (The Netherlands). Anatoly Karpov (USSR), playing white and Jan Timman (The Netherlands), drew in 24 moves. The scores after four rounds are: Kasparov, Karpov and Timman, 2½pts each; van der Wiel 1pt.

Brown faces MPs

Mr Ron Brown is today expected to become the first Labour MP for more than 20 years to have the party whip withdrawn. He has been summoned before the Parliamentary Labour Party this morning and, in spite of strong backing from left wingers including Mr Tony Benn, is expected to have the whip withdrawn for three months. Mr Brown, MP for Edinburgh Leith, tossed the Mace to the floor in the Commons last month.

Tougher sentences

Tougher punishments are being handed down by crown courts for violence, according to a Home Office report yesterday. Prison sentences given to men convicted of violent offences have increased in length by 15 per cent on average in the past five years. The rise has been greatest for sexual offences (30 per cent) and for robbery (25 per cent). Home Office Statistical Bulletin (L2-50; Statistical Department, Lunar House, Croydon CR9 9YD).

Europeans to boost British space effort

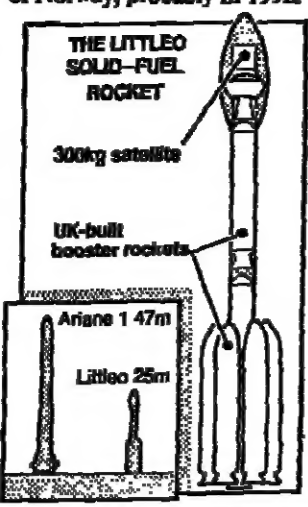
By Robert Matthews
Technology Correspondent

Britain's attempt to rejoin the space race with a rocket built entirely by private finance will receive a vital boost today with the announcement that several big European space contractors are to join the project.

The 80ft-high rocket is to be called Littleton, for Little launch vehicle for Low Earth Orbit, and is designed to put satellites weighing up to a quarter of a ton into low earth orbit. It will be powered entirely by solid fuel boosters of the type used on the United States space shuttle, which will enable Littleton to put payloads into orbit at a cost considerably below that of conventional launchers.

The rocket is to be launched

from what will become mainland Europe's first commercial rocket base, Andoya island off the north west coast of Norway, probably in 1992.



Four companies, including British Aerospace (BAe) and the Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) in Hampshire, have agreed to join a six month development programme, which is to lead to an approach to the City for finance of the order of £30 million.

According to Mr Stanley Armstrong, of General Technology Systems (GTS) in Uxbridge, west London, the British space consultancy which originated the project, BAe is to work on the structure of the four-stage rocket, while ROF is to supply the first and third stage motors.

The second and fourth stages, powered by an Italian-made Ariane 4 booster and its rocket respectively, are to be the responsibility of a West German aerospace consul-

tancy which has so far declined to be named. It is believed, however, that this is Messerschmitt of Munich.

The Swedish company Saab Space is to design the electronic guidance systems.

GTS, which is co-ordinating the project, is the largest private space consultancy outside the United States. It was set up in the early 1970s by Dr Geoffrey Pardoe after the cancellation by the UK Government of the British Blue Streak booster programme, of which Dr Pardoe was project leader.

According to Mr Armstrong, the concept of using a low-cost rocket to put small payloads into low polar orbit has attracted considerable interest from many European countries, and from countries

which have yet to join the space race, such as Brazil.

These countries are looking to exploit Littleton's design objective of reaching orbit for £10,000 per kilogram of payload as a means of gaining access to space, where they will be able to carry out scientific experiments independently of the superpowers.

Three types of payload are being considered for flight aboard Littleton, Mr Armstrong said. These are satellites provided directly by client countries; a reusable satellite which will automatically return to the Andoya launch site, and a so-called satellite "bus", consisting of a self-contained power source and communications system into which payloads can be plugged.

Ridley fuels housing dispute

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday accused Mr Michael Heseltine of wanting to transport single people out of the crowded south of England, as the dispute within the Conservative party over green field development deepened.

Mr Ridley made the charge after Mr Heseltine mocked his views in a speech calling for constraint on rural development in the South, tax incentives to encourage decentralization, relocation of public employees and greater Government efforts to revitalize vacant urban land.

Mr Heseltine ridiculed Mr Ridley's argument that it was only the selfish who wanted to divert the demand for homes from the South.

"It is argued that the demand for housing is self-generated within the South-east and by implication therefore beyond the Government's control."

"Indeed it is suggested that it is only the selfish who wish to divert this demand, that we are protecting our view, our own back garden, I am far from persuaded that building more and more homes - that fewer and fewer of our children can afford - actually addresses the problem."

Mr Heseltine warned that if there was an assumed right of every newly-created family to have a home in the South-east "then we are effectively abandoning the South to an inevitable erosion of the very qualities that are so prized by those who live there."

Mr Heseltine said there were hidden financial costs for the Government as extra homes would need to be matched by infrastructure development. He warned that if people argued that demand had only to exist for it to be met, then building would continue "until you reach the sea."

He labelled the South as the "most subsidized" part of Britain with a hidden tax regime encouraging the concentration of wealth in corporate hands disproportionately located in London and the South-east.

Mr Heseltine called for Government action to switch demand out of the South including tax incentives.

Although not all public employees could move, many could be relocated, and so reduce the need to provide for all the estimated extra homes predicted for the South-east.

Seamen aim to end sequestration of cash by Monday

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Leaders of the National Union of Seamen expect to regain control of their funds and other assets next Monday after allowing shares to the value of £300,000 to be sold to pay two fines for contempt of court over the Dover ferry dispute.

Mr Justice Michael Davies agreed to an adjournment in the High Court yesterday to give Mr Roger Powdrell, the sequestrator, time to satisfy himself, and the court, that there were "no loose ends".

The judge was told that among other matters to be resolved were assurances from Mr Sam McCuskie, general secretary of the NUS, and other union officials, "that everything was quiet and settled in ports round the country for the foreseeable future".

That included assurances that picketing at the Eastern Dock, Dover, would be peaceful and not intimidatory and that pickets would be called off at pick-up points where P&O collects crews to take them by bus to the port.

The TUC yesterday averted a split in its ranks when its special review body decided to try to redraft a code of conduct designed to limit the ability of unions to sign single-union no-strike deals.

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union (EETPU), told the members:

The sequestrators are also seeking assurances that NUS funds allegedly moved out of the jurisdiction of the court immediately before the sequestration order was made would be moved back.

Mr Gabriel Moss, for the sequestrators, said they had received full co-operation from the union but as the order covered only England and Wales, there were some funds they could not reach.

Mr Charles Falconer, for Sealink, which won the sequestration order on May 3 after proving that its ferries were being affected by secondary strike action, said he did not oppose the NUS application for sequestration to be lifted.

However, Mr Justice Davies said: "If I get the idea that two of the parties in this case are ganging up against a third, I will take a very serious view. Don't try to slip one under my guard, Mr Falconer."

"I have a bit of advice for

you that I gave to Mr McCuskie early on in this case. And that is, 'if you can't stay off TV, be careful what you say'."

Earlier, the judge said he would discharge the sequestration order only after he was satisfied that no further breaches of the injunction would be made.

Mr Andrew Hillier, for P&O, said the company had intended to oppose the application to lift the order. However, it would not proceed if it was satisfied that the NUS would remain within the law.

The judge said he would want to be satisfied that the "horde" of other shipping companies which had gained injunctions preventing secondary action by the NUS were happy with the situation. More than 2,500 lorries moved in both directions through Dover yesterday in the port's busiest freight day since last January, the harbour board said yesterday.

TUC averts no-strike split

By Tim Jones

"What is proposed is restrictive when the time of the times is freedom."

The vote on the code was postponed for a month, to allow time to try to redraft it. But Mr Hammond predicted that his 360,000 members faced expulsion from the movement for breaking a series of TUC directives.

The EETPU faces expulsion for refusing to withdraw from two single-union agreements and for refusing to attend next week's TUC general council meeting at which it faces censure for its role in News International's move to Wapping.

Mr Hammond said his union was not going to abandon its policy of offering binding arbitration.

Back to school



Clutching his morning's work, Prince Henry leaves his kindergarten in Notting Hill, west London, yesterday after making his first appearance there since he underwent emergency surgery 18 days ago. He was treated for a hernia at the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, Central London, on May 9, and was allowed to return home the next day. Yesterday, he faced photographers with a smile, holding the hand of his nanny, Nurse Ruth Wallace. His parents, the Prince and Princess of Wales, were unable to escort him to school, because of engagements in Cheshire.

Mayhew backs prosecutors

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Workload pressures which staff in the Crown Prosecution Service claim have stretched them to "breaking point" were partly caused by lack of police co-operation and unjustified criticisms in court, the Attorney General said yesterday.

Sir Patrick Mayhew QC, defended the service in the face of its own, highly-critical staff survey published this week. He said that the survey had been carried out six months ago at a time when a number of factors contributed to workload pressures.

In some quarters of the police, there had been a "lack of enthusiasm" for the service "leading on occasion, to a lack of full co-operation to see that witness statements were served

on time or even legibly", he said.

Sometimes witnesses were not warned about court attendance and listing was not as co-operative as it could have been, with cases added late and lists divided into two.

When this happened and cases had to be adjourned because a witness did not appear it was the crown prosecutor who was criticized in court, he said.

There had also been a lack of understanding by some magistrates' courts that a proper review by a lawyer of the cases would take time. The Lord Chancellor's Department had managed to cut the backlog in the crown courts in some places to four weeks

from 10 to 12 weeks, but the CPS needed longer to prepare cases than under the old system.

"The metropolitan police cannot get the papers to the CPS in under six weeks", he said.

Some stipendiary magistrates had not understood this and refused to give longer than four weeks.

Another pressure had been the shortage of staff. But Sir Patrick said the recent pay package secured from the Treasury would tackle this problem.

Sir Patrick said he was not attacking the police or the courts. He was outlining some factors that had contributed to the workload of staff.

MoD watch on over-pricing

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A rigorous effort is being made by the Ministry of Defence to uncover any "bizarre prices" being charged by contractors for spare parts for the armed services, to cut the annual £2 billion spent on spares, Mr Peter Levene, chief of the procurement executive, said yesterday.

The Army spent £1 million a day on spares, so now all stocks had to carry a price label "to provide a guard against possible over-charging or mistakes by contractors".

The labelling directive, first issued last year, was part of an

overall campaign to cut out waste and achieve value for money out of the £8 billion defence equipment budget, he said.

Mr Levene, speaking at a conference on procurement in London the day after publication of the Defence White Paper, underlined the ministry's new "commercial" approach to purchasing equipment, in an attempt to counter reports that it was being seriously overcharged.

Mr Levene's interest in eliminating overpriced spares was given dramatic impetus

by revelations in the United States about items bought for the American armed services, which, he said, included a \$435 hammer, a \$7,622 dollar in-flight coffee maker, and a \$9,609 wrench.

Although he gave no details of similar British extravaganzas, Mr Levene, who rejected claims that the MoD had wasted £4 billion on procurement, is understood to have discovered a number of cases where individual items which could have been bought off the shelf in a shop for a few pence, were costing the MoD considerable sums of money.

BR scraps newspaper train runs

By Rodney Cowton
Transport Correspondent

British Rail is to discontinue its loss-making delivery train network for national newspapers from July 10.

British Rail said the network involved about 1,000 staff and 100 trains a night operating from London and Manchester, with 300 drop-off points.

Until early 1986, the railways earned £30 million from newspaper distribution, but then Mr Rupert Murdoch's titles, including The Times, switched to distribution by road.

British Rail said that deprived them of £9 million revenue and plunged the service into losses. The position was made worse when Mirror Group Newspapers decided not to renew its contract, costing British Rail a further £5 million of revenue.

British Rail said remaining contracts were due for re-negotiation in 1990, but it had been agreed with the newspaper publishers that it was in everybody's interest to terminate the service early.

Meacher relates 'modest' upbringing

By Robin Young

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman, was wont to be described as Mr Tony Benn's vicar on Earth. At the High Court, the MP for Oldham West, whose mother intended him for the cloth, has found a pupil at last.

On the third day in the witness box yesterday in pursuit of a libel action against The Observer and Mr Alan Watkins, its political director, he repeated with passion and fervour what has become an oft-told story, that his father was an inadequate and dependent man who went to London to train as an accountant, suffered a serious breakdown and thereafter worked for 25 to 30 years on the family farm.

One of Mr Meacher's complaints against The Observer is that an article in November 1984 alleged that he liked to

claim that his father was an agricultural labourer when in fact he had been an accountant who returned to the land because the life suited him better.

Mr Meacher says the article suggests that he talked down his family background to ingratiate himself with the Labour Party and its constituents.

How meek is Mr Meacher has been a central question. He says he does not like the word "humble". He prefers to describe his background as "modest".

He insisted that he would never have described his father as an agricultural labourer. "There is no one word to describe my father's situation properly".

When he was asked, caused his wedding certificate to show his father's profession as "farmer". It must have been his former wife's mother, Mr Meacher said, because he would never

have described his bride's father as "executive manager".

"Here should have gone up and you should have gone down, is that it?" asked Mr Richard Hartley, for The Observer. There was laughter in court, and just for once Mr Meacher sounded hurt. "It's a nice point. I'm simply saying it was not I who filled it in", he said.

Otherwise, one would scarcely have thought that this was a case which might turn on pedantry.

Everyone had a laugh when an article was quoted describing Mr Meacher as "one of the gentler members of the hard or firm left". But at the end of the day, as politicians are apt to say, Mr Meacher was still roughly questioning Mr Watkins' place as a wholly inaccurate and scurrilous. The case continues today.

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Report shows divorce rate doubles after redundancy

By Ruth Gladhill

Middle-class professionals suffer more marital problems because of loss of status and income than those of other classes, when they are made redundant or forced to take early retirement, the Institute of Marital Studies says.

Marriages are also threatened when a man loses a job that once helped him bolster his masculinity or which he used to sublimate aggression, greed and envy, research shows.

Middle-class professionals are the worst affected because they have more to lose in terms of status and income. The marriages of unemployed labourers and manual workers suffer equally if the home environment becomes the only outlet for physical and mental aggression.

The divorce rate among the unemployed is double that of any other social group. Increases in redundancies and early retirement have caused a rapid increase in the workload

of therapists and marriage guidance counsellors, the institute said.

Miss Janet Mattinson, who recently retired as chairman of the institute, undertook as her final project the study of unemployment's effect on marriage.

She and three colleagues examined the troubled marriages of 59 couples who asked for help or attended a special workshop when one or both partners became unemployed. More than two-thirds of the men were professional or skilled workers and included a headmaster, an advertising executive, two airline pilots and a company executive.

One highly paid executive engineer who had lost his job took his management style into the home. "He insisted on supervising his wife's shopping. When she chose something in the supermarket, he put it back on the shelf and chose something else," Miss Mattinson said.

"He was extremely successful at his job and was made redundant only through new technology."

The competitive spirit and envy that had helped him to reach the top in his career almost destroyed his marriage. The only person left to supervise and compete with was his wife.

"There was another professional couple where the wife could not tolerate her husband's loss of status when he left his job and set up his own business," Miss Mattinson said.

There was no evidence that the husband was failing in the new business, but his wife missed the status of being married to an important executive in a large, successful company. She had divorced a previous husband because he did not fulfil her high aspirations.

Two teachers separated after the wife stopped work to have a family and was unable to find another job, while the

man rose up the ranks to become a headmaster.

"She had been senior to him. Much to her surprise, he turned out to be extremely competent and was promoted."

One woman married a dashing airline pilot and was convinced for years of his independence and strength. She did not realize that, although he was professionally competent, he was waiting on hand and foot in hotels around the world.

"The moment he became redundant, he became terribly dependent on her. She could not understand why he became so helpless."

The researchers were surprised to discover that even when the wife had a well-paid, high-status career of her own, that was not enough to support the marriage when her husband lost his job.

Except in the case of the two teachers, it was the husband's unemployment that prompted the couple to seek marriage guidance. "In no case did the employment of the wife take precedence over that of her husband. Her job accommodated his job and her domestic and child care concerns", the institute report said.

"Even today, women are willing to be seen as appendages of their husbands", Mr Sam Kuczyński, co-author, said.

The IMS, which receives a £290,000 grant from the Home Office and other income from counselling and therapy work, has published the research in the form of a book, *Work, Love and Marriage*, aimed at counsellors and analysts.

The book, which took more than three years to research and write, is published next week by Duckworth.

Head start to season



Harrods got the season off to a head start yesterday with the first in a series of pre-Ascot hat shows. Graham Smith of Kangol's pink organza floral cap with straw brim at £480 (top) and Frederick Fox's pert, red, double-crowned straw hat at £204 were among the heady creations displayed by leading British milliners. The next show is today (Photographs: Tim Bishop).

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Winner to improve her home

Home improvements, including carpets and a fireplace, will be bought by one of the winners of the daily Portfolio prize.

Miss Jane Blackall, aged 39, a market researcher, of Hammersmith Bridge Road, Hammersmith, west London, moved home two years ago and is still renovating. Sharing the £4,000 prize with her are Mrs Edna Landon, of Cambridge, and Mrs Audrey Marten, of Wimborne, Dorset.

With three winners of the daily prize yesterday, the Portfolio Accumulator remains at £26,900. Portfolio offers two chances: the daily prize of £4,000 or - if your number is higher - the contents of the Accumulator fund.



Miss Jane Blackall.

Police in hunt for killer

Detectives were last night hunting the killer of a woman found stabbed after an apparently motiveless attack at her home in the Norfolk Broads. The body of Mrs Patricia Swanger, aged 51, was discovered in a bedroom of her home in Nestfield by her husband Howard, a retired air traffic controller, on Tuesday night.

Church-state dispute nears

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Church and State are heading for a fresh confrontation, this time over the General Synod's plan to end a ban on the ordination of divorcees who have remarried.

For the first time in memory, the joint ecclesiastical committee of the Lords and Commons has decided to reject on principle a proposal that has been agreed upon by the General Synod.

A main reason for the committee's decision was the feeling that the Church was bending its principles to suit the climate of the time and turning its back on the teaching that marriage is indissoluble. The committee contains a number of hard-line tra-

ditionalist MPs and peers, led by Mr Patrick Cormack, the Conservative.

General Synod sources expressed anger at the committee's decision yesterday. They argued that the measure had been passed by a majority in all three houses of the synod and that the committee had no right to interfere.

"I see this as an issue where the synod is not going to back down without a fight," said one official.

The church could take the measure straight to the Commons and the Lords for approval, but without the endorsement of the ecclesiastical committee it would probably be defeated.

A more likely course is for the legislative committee of the General Synod, headed by the archbishops of Canterbury and York, to meet the committee to try to hammer out a solution.

The synod's proposal is that bishops should have the power to recommend to the two archbishops the ordination of divorcees who have remarried but whose first partners are still alive, or of men or women who have married divorced spouses whose former partners are alive. At the moment, established clergymen who divorce and remarry can continue in their jobs.

Safety rules 'ignored'

Plea to protect NHS nurses

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Nurses suffer thousands of preventable injuries in hospitals every year because health authorities are ignoring health and safety measures, the authors of a report on nurses' health and safety said yesterday.

Miss Jane Salvage, co-author of the report, *Nurses at Risk*, said: "A government health warning should be put up in every hospital about the dangers of working in the NHS."

Every day nurses faced the risk of being attacked by patients, back injury, catching infectious diseases, side effects from handling toxic drugs and accidents with high technology equipment.

"The NHS has to do more

to look after the health and welfare of their most precious staff", Miss Salvage, director of nursing development at the King's Fund Centre, said.

Miss Harriet Harman, the Labour health spokeswoman who was at the launching of the report yesterday, said that one in six nurses suffered back pain or injury and 750,000 working days were lost to the health service every year because of it.

In addition, a recent survey had shown that one in three student nurses had been victims of a physical assault and 40 per cent had been verbally abused.

Miss Harman called on the Government to ensure that

every district health authority set up a comprehensive occupational health scheme to treat nurses, carry out research into patterns of illnesses and recommend changes in working practices.

She said that the Department of Health and Social Security did not know how many occupational schemes there were in the health service but anecdotal evidence suggested that provision was minimal. The Health and Safety Commission had urged the Government four years ago to set up those schemes but they had failed to act.

Nurses at Risk by Rosemary Rogers and Jane Salvage (Heinemann Professional Publishing, £7.95).

Crowded air space hits flights

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Airlines are being forced to take on additional staff to provide cover for an increasing number of crews who reach the legal limit of working hours while waiting for a take off or air traffic control slot.

Many flights are already slipping behind schedule because of the huge growth in air traffic, a shortage of take off and landing slots at crowded airports and because air lanes are filled to capacity.

Airlines fear that the problem will become even worse this summer.

This week fog and a series of air traffic control delays forced an Air Europe Boeing 737 from Spain to land at Bourne-mouth rather than Manchester.

● The union representing Britain's 1,600 air traffic controllers, the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, voted at its annual conference yesterday to urge the Government to slow down the move towards European aviation liberalization because of fears that it could "overwhelm" the air traffic system.

Sympathy for jury in £4m fraud trial

By Andrew Morgan

A judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday criticized the presentation of a six-month fraud trial, which cost the taxpayer £4 million and ended with the jury clearing the defendants on some charges and being unable to agree on others.

Judge Rant told the court: "I hope that no jury will ever again be faced by a trial of this kind. I do understand that this was not an easy matter to put together, but the court must look to the prosecution to reduce long trials to manageable proportions."

Judge Rant said that there were too many documents in the case, which was the first in Britain where the jury was shown evidence on computer terminals.

He said: "There may be a case in the future where, if documents accumulate and evidence piles up, the trial judge may have to say that the case must come to an end simply because the task of deciding it is beyond the grasp of any jury."

The judge praised the jury, which had been reduced during the hearing to 10 because of death and illness.

He told them: "I have never

encountered a better jury in my professional life. You have shown the utmost patience and attention to the evidence even when it has been tedious."

The jury had cleared Mr Mohan Sridharan, aged 30, of all charges relating to an alleged mortgage fraud.

It also cleared Miss Palcynt Pottinger, aged 25, and Mr Adeghoy Adedagba, aged 29, of some charges but it could not agree on verdicts on others. The prosecution will now have to decide whether to proceed with a re-trial.

The judge excused the jurors from further jury service for life after they spent nine days deliberating - equalling the record for a trial at the Central Criminal Court.

The jury was reduced to 10 last week after a woman developing food poisoning and another juror committed suicide in January.

"The prosecution had alleged that the defendants used bogus organizations to trick building societies, the Department of Health and Social Security and insurance companies into handing over money."

US bank cuts credit charge

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

While the four main British banks slashed yesterday over reducing rates on their Visa and Access credit cards, the American Chase Manhattan Bank stole a march on them, launching a new Visa card. Chase will charge a 16.9 annual percentage rate, more than six percentage points lower than its British rivals.

Chase has also undertaken to pay off customers' credit debts on other bank cards, giving them an extra interest-free month while they make the transfer. The debts can then be paid at Chase's cheaper rates.

So far, the cut in the bank

lending rate to 7.5 per cent announced on Tuesday has not prompted Barclaycard and Access to cut their charges.

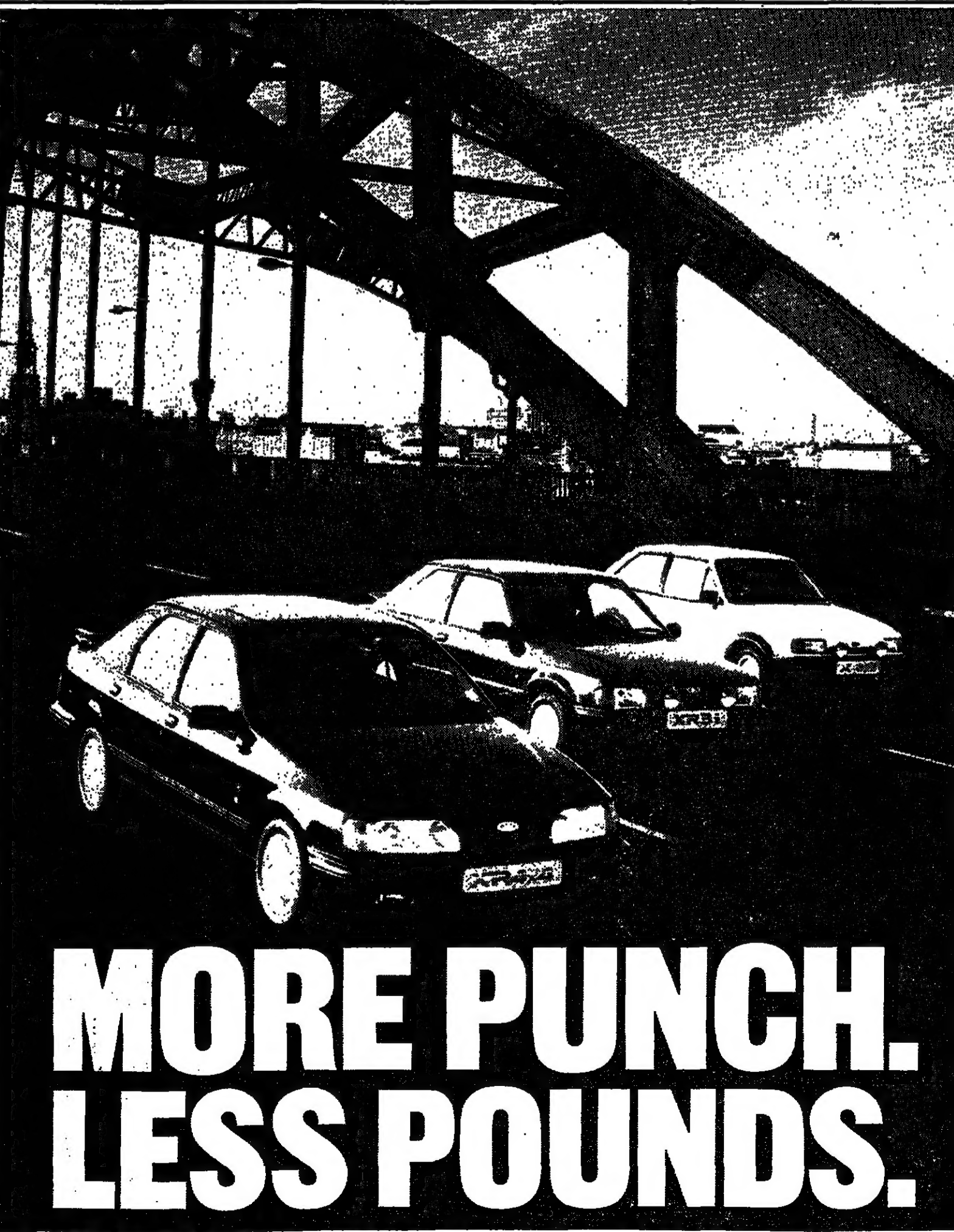
Instead Barclaycard is complaining to the Advertising Standards Authority about Access's advertising.

Barclaycard, which uses Alan Whicker for its publicity, is furious that Access is using the television journalist's name and saying it has more outlets in France and Germany.

The contentious advertisement says that Access is "accepted in more places in France and Germany than

Alan Whicker's card" and states that Access has 472,000 outlets in the two countries. Barclaycard maintains that it has 15,000 more outlets, totaling 487,000.

Mr Norman Thomson, of the Joint Credit Card Company, the firm that organized the £250,000 Access campaign, said both Barclaycard and Access took their statistics on outlets from the European Financial Management and Marketing Association. Access said it stood by these figures and believed there was no legal reason why Alan Whicker's name could not be used.



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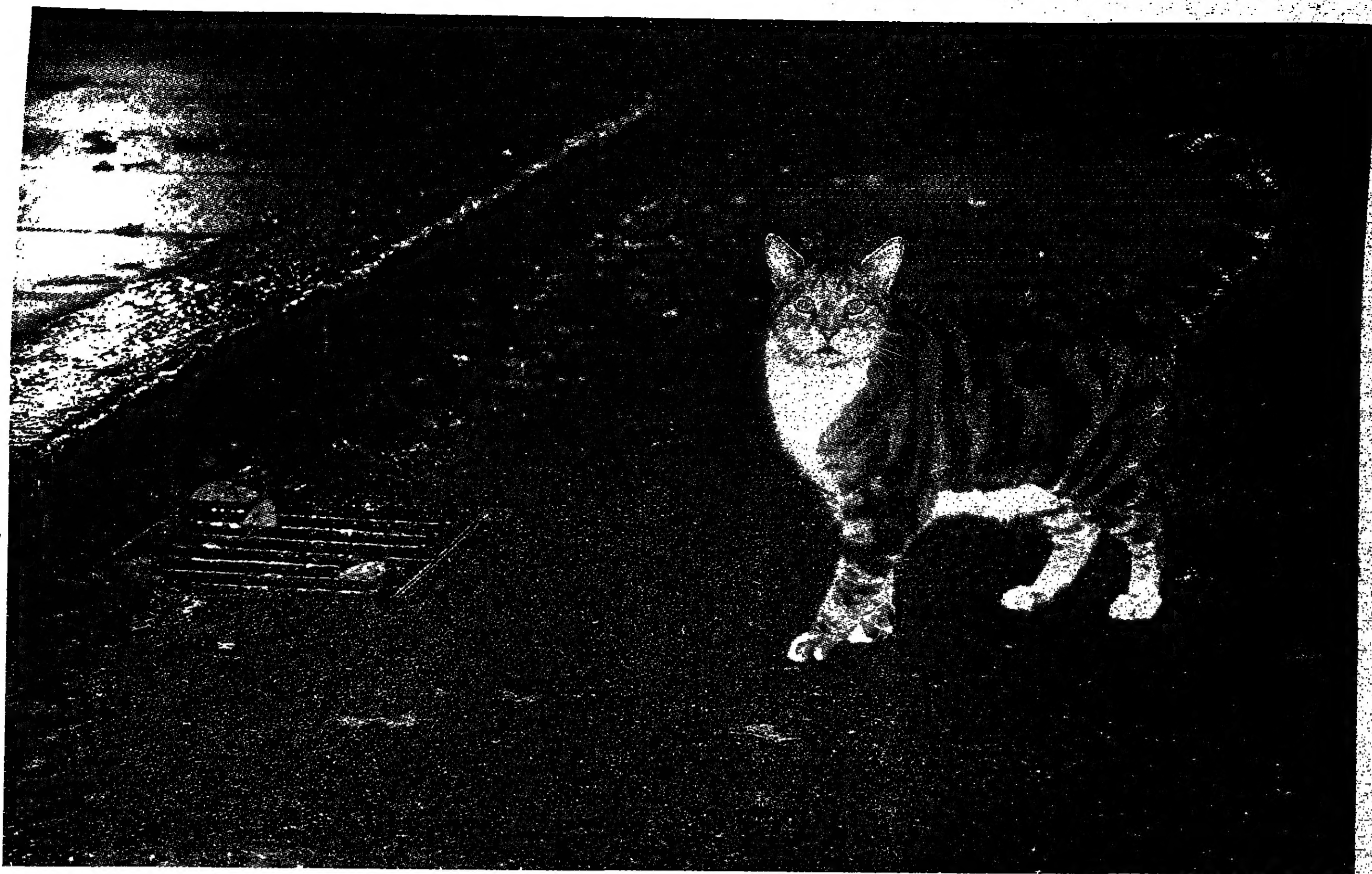
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Features like this helped the Carlton gain the accolade of Car of the Year 1987. That's all very well for us.

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MPs attack care programme

Homes accused of making 'a killing' from old people

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Private residential homes were accused by MPs yesterday of "profiteering and exploitation" and of "making a killing" out of old people.

The accusations followed publication by the Commons Public Accounts Committee of a damning report on the Government's £4 billion programme for caring for eight million old people, mostly handicapped and mentally ill people in the community rather than in institutions.

It comes a day after a judge condemned a nursing home for trying to charge the relatives of one of its residents an extra month's rent because no notice of death had been given.

The demand for the extra rent by the Dallington residential home for the elderly in Hoddeston, Hertfordshire, was dismissed after a two-year legal battle by Judge Tibbot at Edmonton County Court, north London.

The report on community care facilities, meanwhile, said that between 1980 and 1986 the number of old people in private and voluntary homes had more than doubled, and

supplementary benefit payments to finance their accommodation had risen from £18 million to £459 million.

It said that many residential homes set their charges to reflect the maximum supplementary benefit that residents could claim, regardless of the service they offered.

The Department of Health and Social Services "do not know the extent to which this leads to unreasonable profits at the taxpayer's expense", the report said. It ridiculed the claim of the DHSS that it was up to the benefit claimant to ensure he or she was getting value for money, even though he or she might be "frail, elderly and in need of care or attention".

It said arrangements for checking standards at these homes were inadequate, especially after recent publicity about the unacceptable conditions in some, and was concerned that the DHSS did not know how many supplementary benefit payments were paid direct to the proprietors by-passing the claimants.

Mr Graham Allen, a Labour member of the committee,

said yesterday that many proprietors were "Arthur D'Leys" characters who were "making a killing" out of the system. Mr Henry McLeish, another Labour member, spoke of "exploitation and profiteering" by unscrupulous proprietors.

However, abuse of the system by private homes was just one of many deficiencies in the arrangements for the Community Care programme which the committee highlighted.

It suggested that health authorities were discharging many patients from institutions before local authorities had developed adequate community services to care for them, and that there were long standing flaws in funding and planning arrangements which the DHSS had failed to remedy. It was a damning indictment of the shabby way we treat our most vulnerable.

Mr Tom Clarke, Labour's social services spokesman, said:

The MPs condemned the DHSS for failing to monitor the provision of community care facilities by local author-

ties. There was "a risk of hospital closures proceeding faster than the development of community services".

They suggested that the "joint finance" system whereby health authorities funded initial development of local authority services was not workable. Local authorities on tight budgets were not prepared to make long term financial commitments to these services and this had inhibited their growth. They had to be offered better incentives.

Organizations representing old people said yesterday that they were "appalled" that a nursing home had tried to charge an extra month's rent because no notice of death had been given.

Help the Aged said that the organization supported the county court judge who had described as "nonsense" the £582 bill submitted by the owners of the Dallington Residential Home to the family of Grace Beardsmore, aged 89, weeks after her funeral in July 1986.

Public Accounts Committee: Community Care Facilities (Stationery Office, £5.10).

Review of administrative justice

Public access to ombudsmen sought

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Reforms to "give teeth" to the ombudsmen system, including a right for people to go to ombudsmen direct with their complaints, are among the reforms called for in a report today by a group of academics and lawyers.

The report, the findings of which are contained in a book, *Administrative Justice: Some Necessary Reforms*, is the climax of a review of the law relating to the powers of public bodies, and says there needs to be urgent legislation to tackle the "major problem" of local authorities flouting the recommendations of local ombudsmen.

"The local commissioners are treated contemptuously by some local authorities and the

An act to make racial harassment a specific criminal offence is called for in a book published by the London Housing Unit and the Legal Action Group of lawyers today. It says the powers of local authorities and the police should be strengthened, as should the remedies available to victims.

The book, by Duncan

Forbes, a solicitor, also calls for mandatory housing grants for home security devices and for local authorities to give "substantial preference" when allocating tenancies to those at risk from violence.

Action on Racial Harassment: Legal Remedies and Local Authorities (Legal Action Group, 242 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UN; £10).

lawyers, and All Souls' College, Oxford, is chaired by Sir Patrick Neill, QC, Warden of All Souls. It recommends reforms across the whole field of administrative law.

It urges laws to impose a statutory duty on administrators to give reasons for their decisions as exists in many other legal systems, and for the setting up of an independent commission to oversee administrative justice.

Among other barriers to access are that some types of judicial challenge to the legality of the conduct of public bodies requires the intervention and consent of the Attorney General.

Administrative Justice: Some Necessary Reforms (Oxford University Press, £40 hardback, £12.95 paperback).

public are repeatedly being made aware of their inability to achieve results", it says.

"Of 160 reports issued by ombudsmen on March 31 1986, 120 'ended in failure'."

As for complainants, it says access to remedies is in some cases unnecessarily restricted.

Complaints to the Parliamentary Ombudsman have to go through MPs and in the

case of local ombudsmen, are first meant to be channelled through a local councillor. The report calls for the removal of all other barriers which inhibit citizens from pursuing legal remedies when they want to challenge a decision of a public body.

The review body, set up jointly by Justice, the law reform group of judges and

Civil Servants' jobs 'to be hived off'

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Three in four of Britain's 600,000 Civil Servants will be working in new "hived-off" agencies within 10 years, the senior Civil Servant in charge of the Government's latest plan for Whitehall reform predicted yesterday.

Mr Peter Kemp, a permanent secretary in the Office of the Minister for the Civil Service, said the Whitehall of the future would consist of a "residual core" of officials working at the centre, with the bulk of work, possibly up to 95 per cent, being performed in new executive agencies.

Mr Kemp was responding to questions from the Treasury and Civil Service Committee of the House of Commons which is examining the report to the Prime Minister from her efficiency adviser, Sir Robin Ibb, entitled *The Next Steps*.

The report, accepted by the Prime Minister in February, recommends the setting up of new agencies headed by chief executives to run such areas of government work as the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre.

The list of potential can-

didates for hiving off was extended yesterday when in response to MPs' questions, Mr Kemp, who is project manager for the reform, discussed the separation of the social security benefits offices from the Department of Health and Social Security as a new agency.

Mr Kemp emphasized that would not mean that ministers were no longer accountable for social security questions, but that MPs could take up constituents' problems with the new chief executive of benefits offices.

Certain Whitehall functions were unlikely ever to be hived off, Mr Kemp said, giving as an example most of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's activities in making foreign policy.

He promised that the framework agreements that are to be drawn up between the hived-off agencies and their parent departments would be made public.

Mr Kemp implied that the new chief executives were likely to be more answerable to Parliament than Civil Servants are at present.

Defector breaks cover



Stanislav Levchenko with Miss Alexandra Costos, his fiancée (Photograph: John Rogers).

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

It sounded like a job for Smiley's people. "An opportunity to interview high-ranking KGB defector Stanislav Levchenko", the invitation read.

So Levchenko, the man who told the inside story of the KGB in London.

"A diplomat at the Soviet Embassy in Washington is said to be employed full-time to locate and snatch him", the invitation added.

The last place Moscow's hit men would think of looking would be the Council Cham-

ber at King's College London. The rendezvous was to be a well kept secret: only the entire national press knew about it.

Mr Levchenko could have stepped straight out of Gorky High Street, had he not been living in the United States for the past eight years. The slightly tinted glasses, the heavily accented English, the stiff-upper-lip dismissal of fears that he might be eliminated at any moment: it all seemed a shade too good to be true, and perhaps it was.

He described how he had been trained for a suicide mission to infiltrate Liverpool at the start of World War III. He was sent to what he called a "safe flat" in Moscow and visited by a succession of subversion experts. One wondered why the KGB needed safe flats in Moscow.

His defection in 1979 was seen as a coup for the West at the time. Eight years later his message is that *glasnost* is a public relations campaign designed to capture the attention of Western observers. Mr Levchenko was in London to promote his book *On the Wrong Side: My Life in the KGB* published by Brassey's.

Warning over shop adverts

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

High Street chain stores such as Currys have been criticized for advertising goods they cannot supply.

A special warning was issued by the Advertising Standards Authority to large retail outlets yesterday after it considered seven complaints from the public about non-availability of advertised goods.

The watchdog body is particularly concerned about multiple retail organizations that advertise goods that they have in stock, "but not where their customers want them".

It hinted that in some cases, the advertising operation might be a deliberate attempt to assess possible demand in an area.

The authority is appealing to companies, in their own interests, to improve their distribution methods and communication between branches and head office.

"They spend large sums nationally to buy advertising space. Some of the value of that advertising is negated every time a dissatisfied customer complains to the ASA —

and the company's name is published as having contravened the code. The head offices of these national companies have clear duties when they advertise goods."

The advertising code stipulates that advertisers should be able to show they have reasonable grounds for supposing they can supply "any demand".

Currys has had three complaints upheld by the authority during the past year and was again found at fault in yesterday's ASA report.

GP stole drugs to send back to India

By Craig Seton

A doctor who stole from the National Health Service yesterday given three months to pay a £24,000 fine or face a six-month prison sentence.

Dr Jaganubhai Patel, aged 49, a former police surgeon, admitted stealing drugs and medicine, which he sent to family and friends in India and London. He handed a cheque for £12,973 into Dudley Crown Court, West Midlands, to repay the value of drugs.

Dr Patel, of Tall Trees Drive, Redmore, Stourbridge, West Midlands, earns £35,000 a year as a GP. He admitted eight specimen charges of theft and asked for 331 similar offences to be considered. The drugs were stolen from Dudley Family Practitioner Committee, by Dr Patel making out prescriptions in the names of his wife, children, his two receptionists and one of their husbands.

The court was told that he faces being struck off by the General Medical Council.

Dr Patel was practising in partnership at Cradley Heath, West Midlands and was a supervisor in the West Midlands deputizing service. He came to England in 1971 after qualifying in India.

The drugs, all non-addictive, included antibiotics and medicines for bronchitis and skin and eye ailments.

There was no evidence that the drugs were sold for profit, but Judge Evans, QC, told him: "You have been described as a workaholic and I am sure you used some of your surplus energy for the acquisition of wealth. I also suspect that distributing drugs among your family and friends gave you a sense of importance and authority."

Teachers' briefing on racism

By Ian Smith

Teachers will be given a private briefing on the reports of a panel established to investigate anti-racial policies at a Manchester secondary school in spite of council efforts to keep the findings secret.

Mr Ian Macdonald, QC, chairman of the panel, will accept a request to meet staff at Burnage High School in Manchester. Sections of the reports, which the Labour-dominated Manchester City Council has ruled should be kept confidential, will be made available to them.

"We would like to meet the teachers and once our services have been dispensed with by the council, we will find some way of doing it", Mr Macdonald said. "Those in close daily contact with the pupils need to know what recommendations we have made."

"Our findings show there is a great deal of racism in Manchester schools, with students not reporting incidents to teachers."

School opt out choice a 'threat'

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Few parents and schools will take up the Government's offer of opting out of local authority control, but many will use it as a threat to make authorities more responsive to their wishes, according to the Campaign for Real Education.

Mr Ray Honeyford, the former Bradford headmaster who resigned after a race dispute and is now associated with the campaign which lobbies for a return to traditional education, yesterday predicted that there would be "no mass exodus" of schools from their local authorities, but said that it would "grow over time".

The campaign group is sending schools hundreds of copies of its new "action pack" on becoming a grant-maintained school under the Education Reform Bill, or "opting out".

Under the Bill, which is being debated in the House of Lords, grant-maintained schools would be funded directly by central government and controlled by a charitable trust of parents, governors and local interests. A parents' ballot would be the first step in opting out.

The campaign is also lobbying for additional clauses to be added to the Bill which would allow independent, religious schools to "opt in" to grant-maintained status.

Mr Honeyford said: "It may be that it won't be the fact of opting out that will be valuable, but the threat of opting out. If local education authorities know that in any school parents can take over they will be more responsive to what parents want."

South Americans buy Bolivar jewels

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

The Banco Central of Venezuela has prevented the dispersal of jewels once belonging to Simon Bolivar, the great hero of South American independence, by buying the consignment privately through Christie's New York for \$2.9 million (£1.5 million).

The 11-piece collection includes an 18-carat gold snuff box given to Bolivar by King George IV, two diamond-encrusted medals, and gold flatware bearing the initials "SB". Many were gifts presented to the nineteenth-century leader by countries such as Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia and Bolivia, which is named in his honour. He helped those countries win their independence from Spain.

A central bank spokesman said the jewels, which had been sent to market by Bolivar's descendants, had been paid for through proceeds from the sale of commemorative gold coins minted last year in honour of Bolivar. The jewels were flown to Caracas

on Monday and will go on public display there tomorrow.

Bolivar is revered in Venezuela as a military strategist, political theorist and visionary, and sought to unite the republics of northern South America into a single nation.

In London, staff at Bonhams are determined to press on with the sale tomorrow of a preserved Maori head estimated at around £6,000, in spite of threats of an injunction by Mr Robin Hanbury-Tenison of Survival International.

He considers the sale of the young warrior's head, complete with glass eyes, as "distasteful and an affront to the surviving Maori people".

Mr Paul Whitfield, deputy chairman of Bonhams said yesterday: "I seriously find it

hard to understand what the fuss is all about. We have heard nothing officially from the Maori people themselves or the New Zealand High Commission." But, he added, he was planning to "see representatives of the authorities" before the auction took place.

Sotheby's registered three record prices for Latin American artists in New York on Tuesday.

The first was for Fernando Botero, the Colombian painter, born in 1932. His *After Massena*, a send-up of the Italian Renaissance artist's mural of the Gonzaga family at Mantua, with the figures rendered plump and comic, was sold for \$341,000 (£179,474) against an estimate of up to \$220,000. It was bought by Magaly Capriles, a Venezuelan publisher.

Two still life paintings by Francisco Oller tied at \$69,474, a record price for the Puerto Rican artist who was also the only Latin American to participate in the French Impressionist movement. Both fetched double their estimate and were bought by Carlos Conde, the Puerto Rican dealer. The sale totalled \$1.9 million, with 14 per cent unsold.

A painting by Harold Knight, husband of Dame Laura Knight, the English artist, doubled its estimate at Borne's of Torquay yesterday. Entitled *A Quiet Afternoon*, and showing a young woman darning a sock beside a window, it sold for \$38,000.

Sotheby's achieved some startling prices for lesser Impressionists in London yesterday. A snowy landscape, dated 1920, by Albert Marquet sold for £30,000 over its estimate, at £47,300, while Maurice de Vlaminck's village street scene fetched £41,800 (estimate £14,000 to £16,000).

Profitable tips for the landed gentry

By Alan Hamilton

Mr Nicholas Phillips knows some smart ways of making his 4,000-acre estate at Luton Hoo in Bedfordshire pay. Yesterday he rented out his splendid 1760 mansion for a conference of 90 accountants, estate agents and other professional advisers on how to profit from such estates.

Times for the English land-owning gentry continue to be hard. Charging the shilling, protestant to grip the family treasures is all very well for some great houses, but for most medium-sized and smaller country seats it is no longer a viable option, according to Mr Antony Lamb of Savills, the estate agents.

The future, he told the conference, lies in housing day pigeons, and doing deals with the local planning authority.

The country gentlemen should first have a riding centre, on the grounds that the British horse population is growing apace and by the year 2015, 250,000 British acres will be devoted to horses or horse feed. Next, he should offer clay pigeon-shooting, on the ground that in one year, 8,000 people were prepared to pay £24 a day to attend Mr Jackie Stewart's shooting school at Glenageary.

Then he should turn his stable yard into a heritage centre, and charge people to wander the grounds rather than the house. After that, he should do a deal with a housing association to build flats for the elderly.

He should exploit any beds of gravel on his land, which will fetch £1 a ton, filling in the holes with domestic or industrial waste at a royalty of £2.50 per

cubic metre. Then he should sell three acres by a main road at £100,000 for a petrol station.

Finally, he should persuade his local authority to give him the long-term nod on residential development of his land, and in return should provide leisure amenities for the ratepayers.

But what a landowner really needs these days is not land; it's pictures.

Mr Nicholas Phillips knows all about the value of pictures. When he inherited Luton Hoo in 1973 from his grandfather, Sir Harold Werber, a single Alderford painting, sold to the National Gallery, saved the estate.

As a further practical lesson to the conference, Mr Phillips has taken 75 of his lovely acres and turned them into a high-tech business park.

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Uncontrollable relief as first brigade crosses the Afghan border

Tears and flowers welcome returning Soviet soldiers

From Christopher Walker, Termez, Uzbekistan

At 9.22am yesterday, 8½ bloody years after launching their invasion, the first Soviet armoured column returned across the muddy Oxus river from Afghanistan to be greeted by tears of joy and extraordinary scenes of public emotion which underscored the deep domestic unpopularity of the war.

Although some of the vehicles carried slogans designed to portray the retreat as a victory for perestroika, the prevailing atmosphere among the men in the armoured personnel carriers and the anxious relatives waiting to greet them was one of overwhelming relief that the end of Soviet involvement is now in sight.

To someone who had also taken part in the Israeli pull-out from Lebanon under a similar constant threat of ambush, the two retreats seemed to have much in common. Both came after costly operations of dubious military value which caused widespread resentment at home and ended with attempts to create a friendly buffer zone in this case by increasing the economic dependence of northern Afghanistan on the Kremlin.

The emotion of the crowd was increased by reports on Soviet television that the column had been attacked by Muslim rebels as it made its dangerous 250-mile journey north from Kabul along the strategic Salang highway. But a senior officer said that the two or three incoming rockets had fallen well short of their

target. "It was a small incident and no one was hurt", he said. Under huge, idealized portraits of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev and the other members of the Politburo (none of whom attended, to the surprise of many participants), 1,300 men from the First Motorized Infantry Brigade were treated by their loved ones to the kind of welcome not seen since the end of the Second World War.

The mood was personified by the striking figure of Mrs

I am overjoyed that these soldiers have made it home. But I am sad that my grandson cannot be among them, like so many who sacrificed their lives

Marina Saikova, the 28-year-old wife of a lieutenant, who stood in a stand overlooking the parade ground sobbing uncontrollably and waving at the soldiers, who were able to pick out her distinctive yellow dress.

"I am weeping tears of happiness, not because I have lost anyone but because I am joyful beyond words because the soldiers have now started to come home," she said. "My husband served in Afghanistan and returned here eight months ago. But he lost so many friends killed in that country, and that is why I cannot stop myself crying today."

As we were speaking against the background of welcoming bands and wooden speeches from dignitaries, another middle-aged woman — also in tears — leaned forward to explain her feelings.

"I do not have a son myself, but I am still crying because these boys out there, every one of them, are all our sons," she said, pointing to where the weary men were standing to attention before being offered a festive feast to the accompaniment of a band which occasionally played Western melodies.

Nearly all of those gathered for the moving ceremony appeared to have friends or relatives who had served in Afghanistan. The country's proximity to the Soviet Union was driven home by the dramatic view from the stand across the 500-yard "Friendship Bridge" crossing the Oxus to northern Afghanistan on the opposite bank.

Another member of the reception committee who could not control his tears, but seemed quite unashamed by this, was Mr Husein Ashulov, a 64-year-old veteran of the Second World War. He had lost one of his grandsons, aged 19, in the Afghan war only four months ago and his other grandson was due to be among the first troops home.

Mr Ashulov, whose chest was laden with 44 bravery medals, including the Red Star, proudly showed reporters photographs of the time he had served with the same unit during the battle of Stalingrad. "My feelings are strangely



A vehicle with the brigade standard leading homecoming Soviet troops over the border bridge at Termez on the Oxus river.

mixed," he said. "I am overjoyed that these soldiers have made it safely back home. But I am deeply sad that my first grandson cannot be among them, like so many others from our country who have sacrificed their lives there."

Mr Ashulov, wiping his eyes with a paper napkin, added: "The policy of ending our involvement was absolutely correct. It will mean we will no

longer have to suffer the tears of wives and mothers."

Militiamen who were marching the ceremony were unable and unwilling to restrain many of the wives and girlfriends in the crowd, who repeatedly burst through their cordon to hug members of the returned force and to shower them with flowers.

One of those who rushed more than 400 yards to where

the soldiers were standing was Mrs Oksana Gerasimenko, who said that she had not seen her husband, Volodya, for nearly a year. As Soviet photographers who arrived late at their passionate reunion asked her to kiss him again, she said: "Do not worry. I am happy to kiss him many, many more times."

It was clear from talking to the waiting crowd — which

included the remarkable sight of Ludmila, in a lace wedding dress, who said that although she had been married for 11 years she was treating her husband's return after eight months in Afghanistan as a second wedding day — that many had lived in daily fear of receiving bad news from army headquarters.

Western observers from Moscow said that the cere-

mony had clearly shown how great the pressures had been on Mr Gorbachev to end the Afghan involvement. During the whole morning, it was impossible to hear anyone willing to wholeheartedly defend the invasion. One senior Soviet journalist admitted openly that there were deeply mixed feelings inside the Soviet military establishment about whether or not the Afghan Army was capable of standing up to the rebels.

One of the few Soviet correspondents who made the gruelling journey north from Jalalabad to northern Afghanistan was Colonel Alexei Gorokov, chief military correspondent of *Pravda*. "From the exact moment they crossed the border, you could see from the look in their eyes that they knew at last they were home," he said.

Some of the soldiers, who had all been living on their nerves and with little sleep since the three-mile column left Jalalabad before dawn on May 15, appeared overwhelmed by the reception committee and anxious only to escape from the constant glare of publicity.

At one point, Soviet photographers — some of whom were armed during their stay inside Afghanistan — displayed their ability to outdo the worst excesses of their Western colleagues. An old Uzbek man was forced to be photographed with a small girl in the arms of one soldier, despite repeated loud protests that the man was not his son. The unfortunate small girl was later led away weeping uncomprehendingly.

Mujahidin joy as tank officer's death marks fall of a key base

From Edward Gorman Chowni, Paktia province

The last soldier to die defending this huge combined Afghan and Soviet army base, set on a dusty plateau below the wooded hills of Paktia, was a young Afghan tank commander. He now lies in a shallow grave about 25 yards from where his T55 tank broke down in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The Mujahidin guerrillas here claim that they shot him as he ran down the road, trying to catch up with the rest of the convoy as it moved out on its way to the main base at Gardiz, 30 miles to the south.

He would have been one of the first to benefit from the Soviet decision to pull out of Afghanistan, and the Kabul regime's new strategy of withdrawing from exposed bases in border areas, like this one, to concentrate on holding the big cities.

But now he is dead and the

Mujahidin — in their high spirits — have taken to digging him up, calling him names, and hitting him over the head with a spade.

It seems likely, however, that this young man — dressed in the uniform of a lieutenant — died heroically. A brief inspection of his tank shows that it is now useless.

A journalist colleague well-versed in such matters believes that he disconnected the hydraulic systems supporting the barrel and then fired a single shell, sending the barrel crashing back into the turret — a process which would have taken just enough time to cost him his life.

The blatant disrespect for his body may seem barbaric, but for the Mujahidin it was an expression of victory at Chowni, and perhaps a way of avenging the thousands who died over the years attacking the base.

I was among the first correspondents to visit the base after the

Soviet and Afghan troops abandoned it early on Sunday morning. There was an unmistakable sense of victory in the air. The guerrillas were swarming all over the huge fortified area, jumping around in gas masks and Soviet helmets, collecting ammunition and cigarettes, sitting at the wheels of Jeeps and armoured cars and, like children, making engine noises, or lounging on deckchairs and beds which only two days before had been slept on by their enemy.

Perhaps the single most striking thing about Chowni was the sheer size of the base and the adjoining area of country guarded by its satellite or forward posts.

The Kabul Government has said it is withdrawing from minor exposed positions, but Chowni, about 20 miles from the frontier, must rank by any standards as a key garrison. It took 2½ hours to walk the length of the valley occupied by the fortifications. The Mujahidin estimate that 4,000



Chowni and some 100 Soviet troops were based there, if anything, on the low side.

It is a measure of the newly found strength and confidence of the resistance in Paktia that we were able to take a Jeep from the border almost all the way to the edge of the base. From there we followed in single file through minefields which the guerrillas were in the process of clearing by hand and

which, they said, had claimed three lives in the past two days.

The forward positions were spread out at regular intervals on the hillsides along a main river valley which led down to the central area. On our way down we passed, with increasing regularity, abandoned artillery positions marked by huge piles of gleaming shell casings, houses converted into small barracks or command bunkers, and garage facilities cut out of the hillsides.

The base itself was spread out on a plateau about a mile long with the command position at one end, next to it a large helicopter landing area, then a series of barracks and officers' accommodations, numerous ammunition dumps, the camp hospital, a large mechanics shop and, finally, the canteen.

All the buildings had either suffered serious structural damage or were peppered with shrapnel. The entire area was pockmarked

with ground-to-ground rocket impacts fired by the Mujahidin from the hills.

The decision to evacuate Chowni must have been taken at very short notice, because all the ammunition dumps were left stacked high and intact and there were probably 30 vehicles, including two tanks and several field-pieces, left abandoned. In the mechanics' shop, armoured cars had been left jacked-up waiting for new wheels, and at the bakery the shelves were crammed with loaves.

You could tell where the Soviet officers had lived because the accommodation was smarter. I found bottles of Stolichnaya vodka, abandoned pet dogs, one of which had been shot, discarded packets of Russian cigarettes and walls covered in pictures of Russian women. In one house there was even a sauna made out of wood from ammunition boxes.

There were also piles of books, mostly political works, including an

English-language pamphlet on socialism advertising on its cover tricks entitled "A world without war: how to achieve this" and "Can an army replace a revolutionary vanguard?"

Chowni had been left in disarray, and even an attempt to bomb it the day before our party's arrival had largely failed. It is hard to see how Kabul can evacuate bases of this size and still hope to win the war. Kabul's loss has been a big gain for the Mujahidin, who will benefit from the tons of ammunition left behind and the advantage of being able to launch operations inland.

"We are very happy because this place was important for the Russians," explained a Mujahidin commander. "We want to make it a very big Mujahidin camp and we will go from here to the fronts in Logar, Gardiz and Kabul." And in his moment of victory, he added with a grin: "Perhaps we will even go from here to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan."

WORLD ROUNDUP

Soviet generals in Peking talks

Peking (Reuters) — Chinese and Soviet generals have discussed border issues in what is believed to be their first formal contact since the 1969 border clashes, Soviet bloc sources said yesterday.

The generals and other senior officers met in Peking in April as members of a working group set up to hammer out technical details of a border agreement. They discussed how low aircraft could fly over the eastern section of the border while carrying out mapping surveys, and where officials could travel to inspect the disputed frontier. Sino-Soviet relations collapsed in the early 1960s, sparking skirmishes across the Amur and Ussuri rivers.

Swedish view of EEC

Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish Prime Minister, yesterday completed the final leg of his four-nation European tour, after talks in London with Mrs Thatcher during which he explained why Sweden had decided not to join the EEC (Michael Dynes writes).

In two and a quarter hours of talks, Mr Carlsson said that although Sweden wanted the closest possible relationship with the EEC, it could not join it without violating its traditional policy of not entering alliances in peacetime and maintaining neutrality in war.

Photograph, page 10

Libyans accused

Sydney — Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, alarmed about Libyan involvement in this week's rioting on the Pacific island of Vanuatu, yesterday gave firm hints of military intervention should any attempt be made to overthrow the Government (Christopher Morris writes).

Father Walter Lini, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, had earlier warned Mr Hawke that armed men trained in Libya were among 2,000 rioters in Port Vila on Monday. Mr Hawke said in Canberra that Australia "cannot stand idly by" if there were attempts to undermine Father Lini.

Marcos ban protest

Manila — Police yesterday used baton-charges and tear gas to break up a demonstration by supporters of Mr Ferdinand Marcos, the former President, who says he wants to return to the Philippines from exile for the funeral of his mother who died earlier this month (Humphrey Hawksley writes). President Aquino, who came to power when Mr Marcos was overthrown by mass demonstrations in February 1986, has said he will not be allowed back. But a presidential aide said yesterday the ban might be lifted if Mr Marcos gave back funds he allegedly took from the Treasury.

Israel foils infiltrators

Jerusalem (Reuters) — The Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, said that Israeli troops had wounded and captured a Palestinian guerrilla who crossed the border from Jordan. Two other guerrillas waiting on the other side of the border fence escaped back into Jordan after a battle with the troops. Mr Rabin said guerrilla infiltrators from Jordan were trying to revive a fading Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. In the West Bank, troops shot dead a Palestinian youth and wounded nine others in clashes.

Sharpeville move

Johannesburg (AP) — A judge has agreed to re-open the trial of the Sharpeville Six to hear defence arguments against the death sentences imposed on the black defendants, court officials said yesterday. The case is to be heard on June 6.

Reagan conscripts military in new anti-narcotics drive

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan, citing a national emergency, called yesterday for the drugs crisis to be taken out of party politics and urged Congress to join the Administration in a task force to fight drug abuse.

"If we cannot remove the politics from drugs, how can we hope to remove the drugs from our communities, workplaces, and schools?" he asked in a statement on the runway use of narcotics, which has become the biggest policy issue in the presidential election campaign.

He called for the task force to make proposals to him and the bipartisan leadership of Congress within 45 days, and declared that the armed forces must be given a clear mission for specific situations. He announced that he had ordered Mr Frank Carlucci, the Defence Secretary, to make proposals on using military resources to detect and intercept drugs entering the US.

Mr Reagan, speaking at the US Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, said he worried that "excessive drug politics" might undermine effective drug policy. It would be disastrous if the anti-drugs drive was tripped up by partisanship.

Drug use was America's foremost concern.

His attempt to seize the initiative on the issue comes at a time when the two Democratic presidential contenders, Mr Michael Dukakis and the Rev Jesse Jackson, are bitterly attacking the Reagan Administration for its anti-drugs effort. It was Mr Jackson who first tapped the national mood on drug abuse and used it to propel his campaign. Until then, it was hardly ever mentioned by presidential contenders.

Mr Reagan said the task force should agree on solutions for every area of the drug problem, from blocking supplies to curtailing demand, from treatment to education and prosecution, from interception to eradication. The policy was one of "zero tolerance" for drugs.

He called for the death penalty when a death resulted from narcotics trafficking, or when a law enforcement officer was killed. A loud, clear message had to be sent to "drug kingpins and cop-killers." Mr Reagan said the Coast Guard role should be extended to law enforcement in the air over the seas, as well as on and under the sea. Cooperation should be given to allowing state governors to

make greater use of the National Guard.

"Our encouragement, our goal, should be for those who have never tried drugs to remain drug-free," he said.

At the root of the problem was a crisis of values and a spiritual hunger. "I believe that as a society we are still paying for the permissiveness of the 1960s and 1970s when restrictions on personal behaviour came under attack by a cultural establishment whose slogan was 'just say yes,'" he said.

He staunchly defended his administration's anti-drugs record. There had been an unprecedented "campaign" involving the Coast Guard and the Navy.

Since the formation of a border interception system in 1983, annual cocaine seizures had increased 20 times. Last year the Coast Guard and other agencies seized nearly 26,000 lb of cocaine with a street value of \$416 million (about £220 million).

"Since 1981 we have tripled the anti-drug law enforcement budget, and I am asking for another 13 per cent increase. That would give the federal Government a total of \$3.9 billion next year."

'White supremacists' arrested

Plot to kill Jackson

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A couple said to belong to a white supremacist group are being held without bail in St Louis, Missouri, on charges of conspiring to assassinate the Rev Jesse Jackson, the Democratic presidential contender, because he was "getting too close to being President."

Mr Londell Williams, aged 30, and his wife, Tammy, aged 27, of Washington, Missouri, appeared before a magistrate who ruled that there was a sufficient threat to the black Baptist preacher to hold the couple without bail pending a grand jury investigation. They are also charged with possession of illegal weapons.

The charges state that on May 9 an informant told the police that the couple were conspiring to kill Mr Jackson, which led to an investigation by the Secret Service. The informant said that Mr Williams told him that on June 21 or July 4 he and his wife would kill the Democrat.

Mr Jackson, who is constantly surrounded by heavy security, said in Los Angeles that the pair were "dream busters" and expressed relief that they had been apprehended. "It's been very difficult to run a normal campaign with the continuous race attacks and constant death



Mr Jackson: Has received constant death threats.

threats," he said.

The couple are accused of possessing a fully automatic weapon and a machine-gun not properly registered to them. The AR-15 rifle was to be used in the assassination, according to police.

A Secret Service agent testified to magistrates that agents had taped a conversation in which Mr Williams said the Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord, a supremacist group, was planning to kill Mr Jackson. The authorities did not say where the killing was supposed to

take place. Mr Christopher Murphy, a Secret Service agent, testified that the local sheriff's office notified the Secret Service about the apparent plot on May 10, a day after a neighbour of the couple had come forward with information about statements Mr Williams had made. The informant led sheriff's deputies to a wooded area where they found a rifle.

The Secret Service asked the neighbour to wear a concealed tape recorder and meet and talk with Mr Williams. A 45-minute conversation was recorded, in which Mr Williams allegedly stated that he was a member of the white supremacist group and that it was planning to assassinate Mr Jackson. "Refrigerating Jackson is what it's all about," he supposedly said.

Mr Jackson is campaigning in California for the June 7 primary there. He captured 38 per cent of the vote in the Oregon primary on Tuesday, against 36 per cent for Mr Michael Dukakis, the Democratic front-runner. A new poll by the *Los Angeles Times* shows Mr Dukakis leading his rival in California by two to one. Mr Jackson's Oregon showing was impressive in a state that is 95 per cent white.

US rejects TV pap for real-life sex and murder

From Charles Bremner New York

There was a time when American television was a happy land where spouses slept in separate beds, the word pregnant was banned and even the news was packaged with a cheerful gloss. Not any more.

Millions of viewers in New York and other parts of the country shunned the regular quiz shows and prime-time pap for two days this week to watch a "shock video" showing Robert Chambers, New York's convicted "preppy killer", cavorting before his trial with half-naked girls, acting out sexual charades and mimicking the strangulation of Jennifer Levin, his real-life victim. Chambers was sentenced to a long prison term for manslaughter last month after a sensational murder trial in which he claimed he killed Levin by accident during sex.

The Chambers tape, bought from a girl at the orgy, was watched by

one-third of the viewing public in the region. Politicians and journalists were outraged, but not the advertisers.

Murder, mayhem and sex — not fictional but real — are pulling in the viewers by the million as the networks scramble to compete in a booming new market for prime time titillation. Sex and violence made it to the soap operas, police shows and situation comedies several years ago. The new wave of sensation comes from real life, mainly from programmes re-enacting gory crimes and from "confrontation" talk shows.

Madison Avenue has found that one of its prime targets — women viewers under aged 49 — are particularly fans of the new "tabloid videos".

"Television producers are discovering that fictional violence isn't enough for viewers any more," said Dennis Kneale of *The Wall Street Journal*. "Today viewers need

an extra jolt to stay tuned. Producers have found a rich lode to mine in the terrible things that happen to ordinary folks."

Top viewing at the moment is America's *Most Wanted*, broadcast by Fox Television Network. It ventures far into voyeurism as rapes, shootings and other crimes are re-staged with gruesome violence, often by the victims themselves. The old-established networks have been launching new programmes like NBC's *Unsolved Mysteries*, another crime re-enactment show.

Leader in the genre is Mr Geraldo Rivera, a star reporter with his own show who has made a specialty out of shock TV since he took prime time viewers live on a violent surprise raid by the Miami police on the headquarters of a drug gang in 1986. Mr Rivera, a sort of Alas Whicker turned commando, likes to give breathless commentaries as police go into action.

He also interviews criminals about

the grisly bits of their crimes. Last month Mr Rivera hosted *Murder: Live from Death Row*, interviewing killers and at one stage showing a videotape of the murder itself filmed by a security camera in the grocers' shop where it took place. The climax of the show was an interview with Charles Manson, the mass murderer.

With viewers turning away from the old-fashioned network news in increasing numbers, local television stations are competing with each other to show ever more gory pictures of crimes and accidents on their evening newscasts, often with enticement trailers throughout the day along the lines of "Death on Interstate 95. Housewife strangled in supermarket. Pictures at eleven."

Highly successful but less violent are the new-style talk shows. These specialise in the sensational and salacious. Broadcast usually during the day, they are aimed at the housewife market. Queen of the

genre, which is called "nuts 'n' sluts" by its industry detractors, is Miss Oprah Winfrey, a large black woman. She has pushed the limits of the permissible, inviting guests to speak frankly about sexual perversions, child murder, and other deviant behaviour and drawing the studio audience into the discussion.

Another style is the nasty host.

Most successful is Mr Morton Downey, a New York area talk show host who specialises in insulting his guests.

Curiously, the vogue for sleaze on American television has been accompanied by a move away from the lowest common denominator approach to fictional entertainment. The television critics have been showering praise on a stream of new drama and comedy series such as *Frank's Place*, about a New Orleans bar, and *Catina Beach*, about women in the Vietnam war. These feature intelligent dialogue and fresh ideas — rare commodities in US television.

Rocard settles bill for Chirac hostage deal by restoring Iran links

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The first indication of the price France will be paying for the return of its last hostages from Lebanon emerged yesterday with the news that diplomatic relations with Iran are to be resumed.

The French Foreign Ministry has been instructed by the newly appointed Prime Minister, M Michel Rocard, to open discussions that will lead to the exchange of ambassadors at the earliest opportunity.

According to M Rocard, speaking after the first meeting of the new Council of Ministers called by President Mitterrand, the successful operation earlier this month to bring home three Frenchmen kidnapped by the Islamic Jihad group in Beirut has also created "an improved climate" for negotiations about the final repayment of a massive loan from the Shah's Iran to France.

The move to re-open relations with Iran, broken off last July during the "war of the embassies", had been clearly foreshadowed by the outgoing Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac. His public acknowledgement of the help of the Iranians in securing the freeing of the three hostages just before the second round of the French presidential election was understood by the eager Khomeini regime as a clear signal from Paris.

The issue was temporarily clouded by M Chirac's defeat at the hands of M Mitterrand and the President's subsequent decision to dissolve the conservative-controlled National Assembly.

M Rocard went out of his

Beirut (Reuters) — Pro-Iranian Shiites of the Hezbollah (Party of God) fought yesterday to expel their Syrian-backed Arab rivals from Beirut's southern suburbs as Iran pressed Syria not to send in its troops. Three people were killed as the militias ignored a ceasefire, mediated by Iran and Syria, to exchange artillery, mortar and rocket fire. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Ali-Mohammad Behtash, said talks between Syria and Iran would "definitely cancel" the Syrian decision to send in 7,000 troops.

way yesterday to emphasize that the Socialist Government did not know about the small the hostages. "We don't intend to pass any judgement on the conditions of these negotiations," he stated. "It is enough to say that France has given her word and she will keep it in those areas that are known about."

The new Foreign Minister, M Roland Dumas, has been instructed to oversee the process of normalization.

Since diplomatic contacts have never been totally ruptured — with France maintaining a skeleton presence in Tehran in the Italian Embassy while the Pakistani representation in Iran in Paris — re-establishing formal ties should not present too many problems.

Repayment of the last \$670 million (\$360 million) France acknowledges it owes Iran from a loan made during the reign of the Shah is also expected to proceed smoothly in the improved climate.

mate. So much for the visible tip of the iceberg. The question that remains unanswered is what more, if anything, did the Chirac Government commit France to during the sensitive negotiations with "representatives" of the Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad.

What about the pressure from Tehran to resume importing Iranian oil, a trade that accounted for some 10 per cent of total sales before France imposed an embargo in the wake of the diplomatic crisis? What about the fate of Anis Naccache, serving a life sentence in a French jail for an attempt to assassinate the former Prime Minister of Iran, Mr Shapour Bakhtiari, and another pro-Iranian militant behind bars here, Fouad Ali Saleh, suspected of masterminding the bloody wave of terrorist bombings that hit Paris in 1986?

The freeing of both men has been the objective of subsequent terrorist operations and the French have previously released men suspected of having blood on their hands.

The change of government in France has also inhibited attempts to discover whether, as was widely alleged at the time, the Chirac administration handed over a large cash ransom (\$25 million by some accounts) to secure the release of the last French hostages in Lebanon. To judge by M Rocard's careful distancing of the new Government from anything that its predecessor may or may not have agreed, that is something that may never be satisfactorily established.

Gagged Paraguayans applaud Pope



Paraguayans at a nationally televised meeting addressed by the Pope wearing signs to symbolize their inability to speak freely. Dozens of demonstrators at the meeting in Asunción on Tuesday night also held up their hands, shackled with handcuffs, to protest against the authoritarian rule of President Stroessner.

The Pope, in a speech to about 3,500 people which was interrupted 15 times by applause, condemned corruption in Paraguay and gave a warning that widespread poverty threatened social peace.

A few demonstrators waved placards reading "The People Are Oppressed" and "We Want Freedom and Democracy." There were chants of "John Paul, brother, take away the tyrant."

The meeting, which the Government had threatened to ban, was organized by the Roman Catholic Church. As a dance troupe performed for the Pope, one of the organizers, Señora Maria Luisa Brusquetti De Ferreira, read a statement denouncing injustice in Paraguay.

Many in the crowd applauded when she said that

there were "deep signs of death" in Paraguay. She also denounced the sufferings of Paraguay's Indians and peasants and called for the right for groups to organize in freedom.

Her words were broadcast live on national television but the cameras did not show signs opposing General Stroessner's 33-year-old rule.

His Colorado Party boycotted the meeting, leaving 50 seats empty in the auditorium.

After his address the Pope, apparently trying to keep the crowd calm, did not make any impromptu comments.

He gave the crowd his blessing, thanked the dancers for their performance and left to thunderous applause.

Earlier, the Pope had visited a remote Paraguayan mission and had heard an Indian leader complain bitterly about the white man's treatment of his people.

The Pope flew from Asunción 360 miles north-west to the remote outpost of Mariscal Estigarribia in the Chaco desert, where he embraced Indian leaders at a mission and made an appeal that they be treated with justice and humanity.

Cyprus to expel 66 foreigners

Nicosia (Reuters) — Cyprus will deport 66 foreigners considered security risks in the wake of the attempt to blow up the Israeli Embassy here. Officials said they were mainly from the Middle East or Asia.

More than 140 people, mainly Arabs, have been refused entry since the car bomb exploded last week. The Government fears that a spread of violence will damage the island's holiday trade.

Family freed

Harare — The father, uncle and brother of Mr Christopher Bawden, wanted in Zimbabwe as an alleged South African saboteur, have been released from detention.

New minister

Bonn — Herr Rupert Scholz has taken over as West German Defence Minister from Herr Manfred Wörner, who is to succeed Lord Carrington as Nato's Secretary-General.

Nazi arrest

Berlin (Reuters) — East German police arrested Herr Jakob Holz, suspected of being involved in the murder of Jews at Radom in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Tax killer

Peking (Reuters) — A Chinese farmer has been sentenced to death for driving his tractor over a tax inspector and crushing him to death.

Fiji charges

Suva (Reuters) — Eight chiefs have been charged with sedition for trying to declare Rotuma independent of Fiji.

Film controls

Hong Kong (AP) — The Legislative Council approved a Bill allowing politically-sensitive films to be censored.

British QC blasts Singapore 'abuses' as detainees freed

From Gavin Bell, Singapore

Three political detainees have been released in Singapore after a scathing attack on the Government by a QC, who accused it of wielding draconian powers to stifle dissent.

The release order was announced by a government lawyer yesterday, as a High Court judge prepared to hear applications for habeas corpus on behalf of two of them.

The senior state counsel, Mr S. Tiwari, had said that Patrick Seong and Tang Lay Tee, both lawyers, and Ng Bee Leng, a former social worker, would be free by today, and they were duly released last night. The fate of eight others detained without trial under the Internal Security Act (ISA) in the past month was not disclosed.

While the Government might have hoped to avert the embarrassment of a judicial debate on the circumstances of the arrests, in connection with an alleged Marxist conspiracy, Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC, decided otherwise. To the apparent conster-

ment in releasing the detainees, he reminded the court that this was not a tax case, but a matter in which state security and the public interest were at stake.

"It is a case of preventive detention. It is a precautionary measure which must depend to some extent on suspicion rather than proof," he said. "Parliament in its wisdom has determined the executive cannot be compelled to put forward facts about detentions before the court."

Justice Lai Kew Chai dismissed the motions on the grounds that it had not been shown that the Government had ordered the arrests, or that there had been an abuse of power.

Mr Robertson's intervention was thus little more than a symbolic gesture against what human rights groups regard as vindictive conduct by the regime. The symbolism extended to his wig, which, belonged to Mr Francis Seow, a former Solicitor-General and president of the Law Society, who is among the detainees.

To the delight of prisoners' relatives, who packed the court, however, he had made his point. A representative of Amnesty International, which has adopted the detainees as prisoners of conscience, observed the proceedings.

Independent legal experts concluded that the Government's powers of arrest and detention were unfettered.

"It's as if the British Government could arrest anyone who wrote a critical letter to The Times," one commented. "Unless you get a Denning or a Scarman here, the courts are powerless against the ISA."

The Government faces further judicial criticism, as Mr Robertson is due to present three similar cases on Monday, and another QC from England is preparing to argue two more which have been adjourned until next month.

The latter include that of Miss Teo Soh Lung, whose case was reported in The Times yesterday.

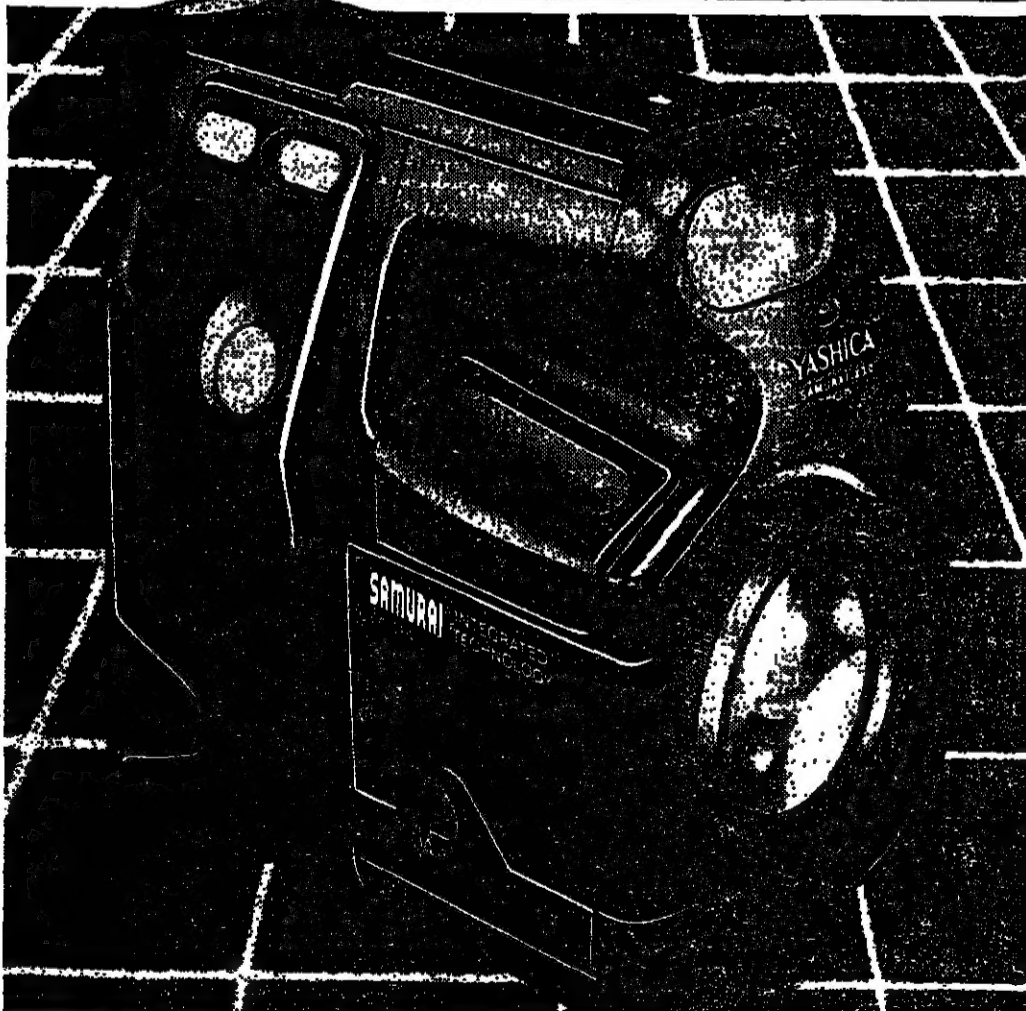
A muted political challenge to the detentions was offered in Parliament yesterday. Mr Chiam See Tong, the lone opposition member in the 79-seat house, asked when Mr Seow would be released, and whether the Government was aware of adverse publicity attracted by the arrests.

Professor S. Jayakumar, the Home Affairs Minister, said that Mr Seow was still being questioned in connection with foreign interference in Singapore's affairs.

He said: "The Singapore Government cannot afford to allow campaigns by foreign human rights and other less honourable groups to intimidate us."

"If we allow overseas criticism to deter us from not doing something manifestly right and in Singapore's interests, we will open ourselves to foreign pressure in our domestic politics."

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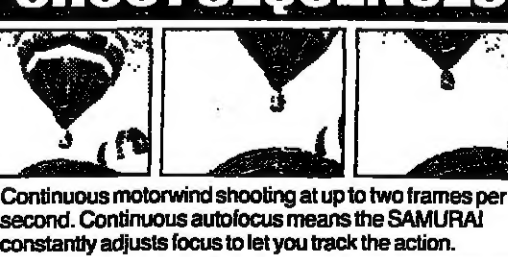
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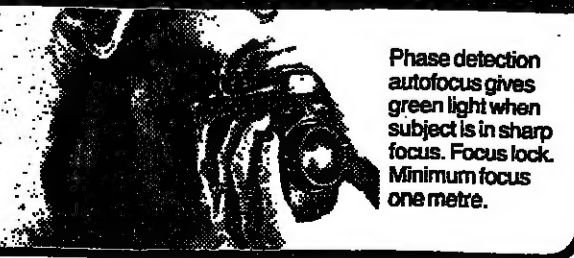
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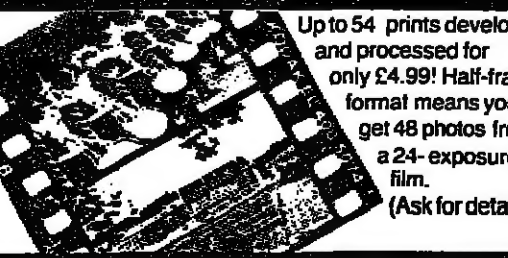
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Golden Temple siege ends

Rebel surrender vindicates tactics of Indian police

From Michael Hamlyn, Amritsar

The Indian security forces' siege of the Golden Temple of Amritsar, the holiest shrine of the Sikh religion, ended in triumph yesterday with the surrender of 46 Sikh rebels, all those left alive in the precincts.

Mr K. P. S. Gill, the Punjab state police chief, was able to boast afterwards that among his forces "not a single person has stepped upon the *parikrama*" — the glistening marble walkway that surrounds the pool in the centre of which stands the gilded *sacred* *sanctum*. The religious sanctity of the place thus remained intact.

At least three of the extremists inside the temple preferred death to the dishonour of surrender and opted to swallow cyanide.

The contrast in Amritsar with what happened during Operation Blue Star in 1984, when the Indian Army stormed the temple with great loss of life on both sides, could hardly be more striking.

In Mr Gill's operation no military forces were used at all, although the police commanders who bore the brunt of the siege are soldiers in all but name. Their equipment and their training all comes from military sources, but they wear black dungarees instead of olive green and are under police command.

Mr Gill was also able to boast that no member of the security forces was killed in the operation. Three were wounded, the most serious of whom was operated on yesterday. He "will be back on duty soon".

The end of the siege came in the late afternoon yesterday after the commanders had

Delhi — Sikh extremists intent on avenging the Indian Government's siege of the Golden Temple at Amritsar killed 31 militant Hindu workers in a village near the Punjab state capital of Chandigarh (A Correspondent writes). The labourers were working on a canal to link Punjab's water system to that of neighbouring Haryana — "stealing Punjab's water", as it is known among the Sikhs. A note left at the village said: "This is the reply of the Sikhs to the action in the Golden Temple."

At least 20 people were injured in the attack late on Tuesday night, police said. About 70 other workers, most of them from the northern states of Bihar and Orissa, fled into nearby fields to save themselves from the gunmen. Survivors said that the militants shouted that they would avenge the siege of the temple complex. Mr Chander Shekhar, the police superintendent for the area, said that the note indicated that the attack was the work of the Khalistan Commando Force, one of a dozen Sikh separatist groups in Punjab fighting for a separate Sikh state.

The killing of the militant workers, together with seven other deaths that were reported overnight, brought the number of people who have been killed by Sikh extremists in Punjab this year to more than 1,060. This exceeds the 1,030 deaths that were reported for all of 1987.

edged to the very kerb of the *parikrama*, having seized the last defended redoubt on its edge, the two 18th-century towers known as *bungas*.

These towers — in fact, places of rest — are themselves symbols of the violent history of the Sikhs that mingles with the religious peace around the holy pool. They were built by prominent Sikh leaders to fulfil two purposes — to defend the temple and provide shelter for pilgrims.

As the sun began to set and the commanders kept watch on the *Harimandir*, the gold-covered holy of holies in the centre of the pool where the last of the extremists had taken refuge, stretcher-bearers waving Red Cross flags brought a dead rebel out of the tower complex. Then loud-speaker announcements declared that, if the rebels wanted to come out now, they should wave a cloth and await further instructions. A yellow

turban cloth was promptly flapped out of the window of the *Harimandir*.

"Come out one at a time with your hands up, walk to the right of the gateway, and walk round the pool to the right, keeping close to the water," they were instructed.

Soon afterwards the first of the band trapped in the *Harimandir* stepped hesitatingly out and did as told. The others followed, including one woman, the wife of one of the rebel leaders, and several young boys.

Halfway through the process a handful of the rebels broke away from the edge of the pool and ran for the shelter of the cloister that runs round the *parikrama* walkway. The commanders opened fire immediately and two were killed. Three who reached the shelter promptly killed themselves with cyanide, according to the report of two of the militants who were later sent back

inside to urge their colleagues to complete the surrender process.

The suicides included Kulraj Singh, a self-styled "Lieutenant-General in the Khalistan Commando Force", who was said to have been personally responsible for more than 100 killings.

Among those captured were other extremist leaders, including Malkiat Singh Anjana, who received treatment for shrapnel wounds in his shoulder after he surrendered, and Nirvair Singh, a spokesman for the rebel groups, and a stopgap high priest of the temple.

BOMBAY: At least six people were killed in police gunfire and stabbings in the west Indian city of Aurangabad after a controversial election triggered sectarian clashes between Hindus and Muslims, police said yesterday (AP reports).

Police opened fire on rioters yesterday at five places in the city, killing one person, the Maharashtra state police control centre said. At least five people were killed on Tuesday in riots and clashes with police.

Aurangabad, a city of 500,000 inhabitants, is about 225 miles east of Bombay.

Trouble began after a district court reserved judgement in a case filed by Shiv Sena, a militant Hindu organization, challenging the May 6 election of a mayor.

The official, Mr Shantaram Kale, is a Hindu but his election was backed by the Muslim League. Angry Hindu militants attacked Muslim shops on Tuesday, sparking off retaliatory attacks by the Muslims.

Mystery blaze on Soviet cruise ship



Smoke engulfing the Soviet cruise ship, Priamurye, in Osaka. Fire-fighting vessels joined 54 engines in tackling the blaze.

Eleven die after delay in alarm call

From David Watts, Tokyo

A mysterious delay in calling for help may have increased the number of deaths on a burning Soviet cruise ship in Osaka port early yesterday.

Eleven died and 35 were injured after fire broke out on board the *Priamurye* around 1 a.m. yesterday. No call for emergency help was made, and the alarm was raised by a Soviet seaman dashing into a dockside warehouse and a Japanese radar operator on port duty.

Last night there was no explanation as to why the vessel did not sound the international distress code for fire of five blasts on its siren or use its radio or telephone. The fire is thought to have been burning for almost an hour when emergency services from land and sea began to tackle the blaze.

The fire is believed to have started

amidships on the three-deck cruise vessel, which was packed with 424 crew and passengers — Russians of the *Komsomol* (Communist youth league) on a goodwill, round-Japan visit. It is thought that all on board were Soviet citizens.

The ship was built in East Germany in 1960 and was due to be scrapped this year.

The Osaka Fire Department sent 54 fire engines and the Maritime Safety Agency tackled the blaze with fire-fighting vessels. So much water was being sprayed onto the 4,870-ton ship that at one point operations were halted because the vessel was developing a list as the volume of water on board reached a critical level.

Police said all the victims were passengers and that the crew had been accounted for. "A rescue team is in there

now, but we don't expect any more bodies to be found," Mr Yoshihide Yasuda, the spokesman of the Osaka police, told a press conference last night.

Fifteen of the injured were still in hospital last night suffering from smoke inhalation, or fractures from jumping overboard. The dead were laid out in a nearby temple.

The police are due to start a full-scale investigation today, but officials of the Soviet Consulate in Osaka were reported to have refused to sign papers authorizing the questioning of the captain for evidence which might be used later in a court action.

The youth cruise started from Vladivostok and the ship had already put in to Otaru and Tokyo ports before Osaka. It was to have continued on to Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Kanagawa to complete the circuit of Japan on May 28.

Italian TV star's death highlights court chaos

From Roger Boyes, Rome

The sudden death yesterday of a top Italian television presenter has taken the wind out of a crusade to make judges more responsible and to stamp out some of the corruption and delay in one of Europe's most antiquated legal machines.

Signor Enzo Tortora, who died of cancer aged 59, had a Sunday talk show called *Portobello* watched by 15 million viewers. He was, in British terms, a combination of Terry Wogan and Bruce Forsyth, a strange hybrid with great appeal in Italy. All went well with his career, and his personal life was publicized with all the detail usually given to the royal family.

But in 1983 the bricks came tumbling down. On the basis of a confession by a gangster from the Neapolitan Camorra, he was arrested and accused of being a drugs dealer.

The charges, it emerged after many months, were completely without foundation; the Camorra informer had confused the television star with a heroin and cocaine salesman of the same name.

The informant was not exactly beyond reproach: he was Pasquale Barra, known as "The Animal". One of his typical crimes was the vengeance killing of another Camorrista by tearing out his bowels in the courtyard of a prison and chewing them like a plate of tripe. Signor Tortora was only one of several hundred arrested because of The Animal's confessions.

Signor Tortora's innocence seemed to be plain to everybody except the courts. After he had been a year in jail awaiting trial, the Radical Party engineered his election to the European Parliament, giving him immunity. But

Signor Tortora waived the privilege, stood trial in Naples and, in a series of odd and unbalanced hearings, was found guilty. This verdict was overturned on appeal, but he was "cleared" unanimously only by the Supreme Court last month.

In those five years, his career had been destroyed and



Enzo Tortora
False information destroyed his career and his health

his health ruined. He announced his intention to lead a campaign against the Italian legal system which can imprison on the basis of thin suspicions and which often results in months or years of pre-trial imprisonment.

About 80 per cent of the electorate voted in a referendum last November to abolish the immunity of Italian prosecutors and judges. The referendum, the result of Radical Party pressure, was inspired by the Tortora case.

The vote forced Parliament to pass a law that allowed wronged defendants to sue judges and investigating mag-

istrates for damages in the case of false arrest and for unjust imprisonment caused by "serious negligence or the deliberate ignoring of relevant facts". Theoretically, it is now possible to have an Italian judge imprisoned for wrongly jailing you.

Signor Tortora, embittered by his experience, wanted to encourage those wronged by the courts to make use of the new law, which will come into force next month. Many argue that defence lawyers will be reluctant to pursue damage suits against judges for fear of hurting their careers. Signor Tortora, before his illness took hold, was hoping to overcome these inhibitions by collecting sympathetic lawyers and persuading aggrieved defendants to fight. He started a compensation claim for several million pounds.

But the main criticism of the law is that it will make magistrates err on the side of caution, especially in cases against the rich or the powerful. In other words, it might adversely affect the fight against the Mafia.

Still, a shake-up is overdue. According to some estimates, about 40 per cent of the prison population of Italy is awaiting trial.

There is a shortage of judges, aggravated by poor pay and sometimes, especially in Mafia cases, dangerous conditions.

Procedures are slow — quite frequently the minutes of court hearings are taken in long-hand — and the number of judges needed for a trial is plainly excessive (three professionals and six lay judges). The court administration is also creaking and given to strikes and long holidays.

UN population warning

Man making a desert world

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

A dark portrait of a planet steadily undermining its own future emerges from a United Nations report published today.

"Increasing human demands are damaging the natural resource base," the United Nations Population Fund warns.

The report says that, as the world's population increases from five billion now to the six billion predicted by the end of the century, the land available for agriculture is declining.

"Tropical forests are shrinking by 11 million hectares (more than 27 million acres) a year. Topsoil is being lost at the rate of six million hectares a year," it says.

The report comes hard on the heels of a warning given by the Duke of Edinburgh, as president of the newly re-named World Wide Fund for

Nature, that the world cannot sustain its population growth without a drastic decline in living standards.

Dr Nafis Sadik, executive director of the UNPF, said yesterday that the present rate of population growth was like adding a country the size of Mexico every year.

One-third of the world's land surface is now threatened with becoming desert, and existing desert areas are already expanding at 13 million acres a year.

"The pattern of land use which has sustained generations of rural Africans has been broken. Larger populations and lower rainfall have forced more marginal land into production and reduced fallow periods. Without time for the land to recover, yields drop. More land is cleared to increase food production, reducing fuelwood supplies

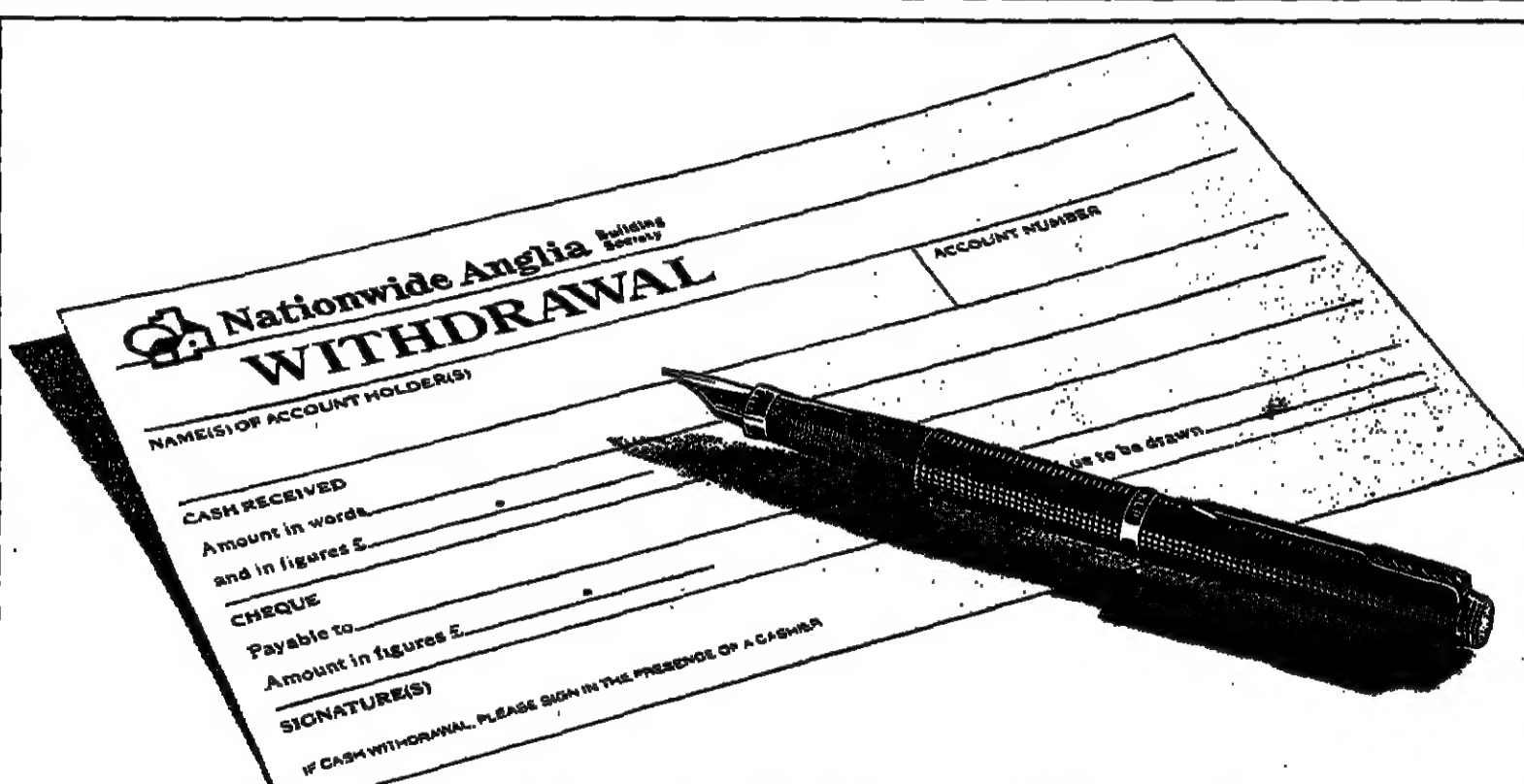
and grazing. Finally the top soil itself turns into dust."

The situation has been aggravated by declining raw material prices, on which many developing countries depend for their exports, and because of agricultural protectionism in the developed world.

The report points to the irony that the success of health programmes to reduce infant mortality and increase life expectancy is one of the causes of the explosion.

It calls for a world programme to establish "a sustainable relationship" between human numbers and resources, coupled with measures to reduce environmental damage.

"The State of World Population 1988" by the United Nations Population Fund, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017.



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“I think,
therefore
I am.”

Ridley criticizes councils for housing failures

Frontbench spokesmen banded quotations from a speech by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Conservative Secretary of State for the Environment, during arguments over housing policy at question time.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, dismissed Mr Heseltine's remarks as saying that single people "should be transported" from the crowded South-east.

Mr Ridley, answering a question about the homeless in London, said that in 1979 the number of households accepted as homeless had been 16,500 and in 1987 it had been 30,000. It was that most of these had some form of accommodation before applying to be accepted as homeless.

Mr Simon Hughes, SLD environment spokesman, said that the Government stood condemned by those figures, which showed a doubling of the problem while at the same time the number of rented properties had diminished by 13 per cent, or 200,000.

The only solution would be for the Government to realize that affordable rented accommodation was required for the homeless, and that that could be achieved through an amendment to the Housing Bill.

Mr Ridley said that the failure lay with the local housing authorities. The category that really counted was those in bed-and-breakfast accommodation, and they had fallen from 8,000 families in the first quarter of last year to 7,000 this year. That was a fifth of all the empty and squatted properties available.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) asked how Mr Ridley dared to blame local authorities for the homelessness crisis. There were between 30,000 and 40,000 people in bed-and-breakfast homes in Greater London. It was insufficient for Mr Ridley to talk so complacently.

There was need for positive action. The Government should call a conference of all the leaders of the London borough authorities to try to find some

THE HOMELESS

way to work out the problem together.

Mr Ridley said that that was the point; housing was the responsibility of the London boroughs.

In answer to a later question, he said that in Newham there were 2,764 empty properties and 573 households in bed-and-breakfast accommodation, so they could all have been housed.

Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, asked how Mr Ridley could deny responsibility for the housing problem when the Government had cut local government housing investment programmes by more than 70 per cent in real terms.

Would he agree with the remarks made that morning by Mr Heseltine to the Brick Development Association, when he had said that he was far from persuaded that building more and more houses that fewer and fewer of our children could afford, actually addressed the problem.

Mr Ridley said that what Dr Cunningham failed to realize was that on top of capital allocations there was 20 per cent of receipts available to local authorities to spend and that meant that there was £8 billion available for capital investment by local authorities.

He would also quote from Mr Heseltine's speech because it went on to say: "If there is an assumed right of the newly created family, the newly separated single family, or the pensioner living longer, to have a home in the South-east, then we are effectively abandoning the South to an inevitable and irreversible erosion of the very qualities that are today so prized by those who live there."

Mr Ridley commented: "What he is saying is that single people should be transported."

● The Government is considering measures to reduce the cost of local authority empty homes. Mrs Marion Roe, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, told MPs at question time.

She said that the Minister of

State (Mr William Waldegrave) would make a statement on that at the report stage of the Housing Bill.

Mr Michael Fallon (Dartford, Con) had said that the real scandal was not that more than 2,000 council houses were empty in the North but that nobody seemed to be doing anything about it.

Mrs Roe said that she was not convinced that compulsory disposal along the lines being suggested was necessarily the most effective means of making housing available to those in greatest need. But she supported the principle of encouraging "homesteading".

"The bill is clearly in the local authorities' court. For our part, we are considering changes to the improvement-grant regime to be contained in new legislation."

Mr Clive Soley, an Opposition spokesman on environment, said that 6.9 per cent of Government properties were empty. That was, on average, three times as many as any local authority.

Why did he have to rely on people like him to go around Government departments getting them to put back into use houses and flats that had been empty for as long as nine years?

Mrs Roe said that Government "empties" were reviewed regularly and departments were strongly urged to sell surplus stock. Where disposal was not practicable, the departments were encouraged to let empty properties temporarily to local authorities or housing associations.

Later, Mr John Hiddle (Mid Staffordshire, Con) said that many of the homeless could be housed perfectly adequately in properties in the public sector that were now tenanted by people for whom the properties were too large. Many local authorities were not using the provisions of the Tenants' Charter to the best effect.

Mr Ridley said that there were more than 100,000 empty council houses and 500,000 empty private houses. It was Government policy to bring the maximum number of these into use to help to overcome the housing shortage.



Mrs Margaret Thatcher welcoming Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Prime Minister of Sweden, who visited her at 10 Downing Street yesterday

Millions angry 'at treatment of Zola Budd'

SPORT

Mr John Carrisle (Luton North, Con), chairman of the Conservative Sports Committee, said that millions of British sportsmen and women were extremely angry at the treatment afforded to Miss Zola Budd.

She had been hounded out of the country by left-wing political extremists and these bigots and hypocrites had no place in sport. Sport should be returned to sportsmen and not politicians.

Mr Colin Moylan, Minister for Sport, said that millions of people outside the Commons would share that opinion.

Mr Denis Howell, Opposition spokesman on sport, said that the International Olympic Committee and every Olympic sport long ago took the decision that no one connected with South African sport should be involved in the Olympic movement.

The spirit of that undertaking should be observed by every athlete. Mr Moylan's remarks were totally out of place and contrary to the interests of British sport.

Mr Moylan said that the Government was of course totally committed to the Gleneagles Agreement on links with South Africa and remained so. If Mr Howell reread his earlier



Miss Zola Budd

remark he would see he had said that millions outside the chamber would share the strength of Mr Carrisle's feelings (Labour MP: Do you? Do you?)

Mr Harry Greenwood (Ealing North, Con) said that it would be the death-knell of the Olympics and all sports. It was high time that it was taken out of all sports in all lands altogether.

Mr Moylan said that in an ideal world Mr Greenwood would find no one to disagree with him.

'Time to start backing British football'

Sports Minister's record 'despicable'

HOOLIGANISM

The record of Mr Colin Moylan, Minister for Sport, in securing readmission of English football clubs to competitions in Europe since the ban after the Heysel stadium disaster in Belgium, had been despicable, a Labour MP said during heated exchanges at question time.

Mr Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw, Lab), a shareholder in Sheffield Wednesday FC, asked when the Minister would start backing British teams and praise their behaviour.

Exchanges about hooliganism and football became so noisy that the Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, reminded MPs that they were not on the football terraces and that it did not help to show to the world that British teams and praising their behaviour.

Mr Moylan said that at his meeting on Saturday with the

Manchester United-AC Milan game the previous night.

That was not an isolated matter and Mr Moylan should say that he backed the return of England to European football.

Mr Moylan: I will always speak up for the success, and speak out against hooliganism.

Mr Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw, Lab): Why should innocent people who have committed no offence be barred simply because of the antics of a few National Front supporters, who will be judged on their behaviour in Germany (at the European championship) this summer? Why should we be treated as second-class British teams and praising their behaviour for the past three years?

Mr Moylan: I recognize that the vast majority go to enjoy the game and want nothing to do with hooliganism and that the hooligan element is not a football fan element.

Mr John Carrisle (Luton North, Con), vice-chairman of the Commons all-party football committee, said that the Minister had the full support of Conservatives in his determination to make the FA, the Football League and the European football authorities responsible for their own behaviour, and that of their clubs.

If more clubs followed the example of Luton Town, worthy winners of the Littlewood Cup, in banning away supporters, they would have no hooliganism problems this season and all British clubs would be readmitted to Europe without problem.

Mr Moylan said that he recognized and supported what Luton Town had done in their circumstances, which deserved support from all sides.

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Research centre 'out of step'

The Joint Research Centre of the European Community, which has been in existence since 1974, seemed increasingly to have lost its way and to have been failing to respond to the Community's needs, Mr John Gummer, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Commons late on Tuesday.

Moving that the House should take note of a EEC directive to correct this, he said that the centre had not stayed in step with the rest of the Community's research and development efforts, which was directed more and more at improving the competitive position of European industry.

That was not acceptable for what amounted to nearly one billion ecu of expenditure, or £700 million, between 1988 and 1991.

Air check on illegal fishing

Ariel surveillance will be undertaken to try to curb the activities of those who fish illegally, Lord Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr Kenneth Stewart, told peers who expressed concern about the high level of drift-net catches of salmon landed in the Irish Republic.

He said illegal activity affecting Scottish salmon was a matter of concern to the Government. As in previous years, fishery protection vessels would be deployed within the Scottish sector of the UK fishery limits with a view to enforcing fishery legislation.

Lottery to be studied

The Home Office and the Gaming Board are taking a close interest in the proposed, privately promoted, National Health Service lottery because the promoters believe that they have found a legal means to offer a prize considerably in excess of the maximum the law allowed, Mr John Patten, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a written reply.

He said that the Gaming Board had brought to the notice of the Crown Prosecution Service aspects of the enterprise.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Home Office; Prime Minister. Debate on Opposition motion on shipbuilding. Debate on EEC budget.

Lords (3): Education Reform Bill, committee, seventh day.

Walker's demand

A call for a far more radical Conservative Party policy to shift more council houses into the private sector was made by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, when he addressed a lunch of the Parliamentary Press Gallery yesterday.

He regretted that, after 18 years of Conservative government, interrupted by only four under Labour, 80 per cent of council houses were still in council ownership.

Mr Walker said that the emphasis of politics had changed, and that the reality was that the party that won power now would lead the country to a more efficient and successful economy and could best use the fruits of that successful economy.

Government rejects workers' directors move



Mr Maxton: Employees' rights come first

An Opposition attempt to get two directors representing employees appointed to the board of the company that will replace the British Steel Corporation was rejected by 244 votes to 192 Government majority, 52, when the report stage of the British Steel Bill was resumed in the Commons.

The Bill provides for the vesting of BSC in a new company after privatization.

Mr John Maxton, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, moved the amendment calling on the Government to appoint two directors to the board of the privatized company after consultation with the appropriate trade unions.

Under this amendment, in theory, if not in practice, the directors appointed might not be members of the trade unions.

"The only clear criterion we are seeking to lay down is that they should be appointed to represent the interests of the employees."

Labour believed that the workers should have more rights than the shareholders because their livelihoods depended on the company's success. Directors who came from the workforce would have more expertise than a director appointed by an insurance company or institution.

Mr Michael Fallon (Dartford, Con) said that this was a modest measure compared with the workers' director proposal in the late 1970s, but it suffered the same fundamental flaw. It assumed that the interests of the workforce were different from those of the shareholders.

Mr Barry Jones (Alyn and

Desseid, Lab) said that steel workers were now highly successful and co-operative. They deserved extended rights of consultation. Channels of communication were needed down to the shopfloor.

Mrs Margaret Ewing (Moray, SNP) said that the proposal gave the Government an opportunity to show to the workforce of British Steel that it had a genuine concern and interest in ensuring that all aspects of the industry were explained to them by those whose decisions would have a vital impact on their lives.

Mr Stuart Bell (Middleborough, Lab) said that there was a long tradition in the steel industry of worker-directors. The industry had pioneered the idea and it had worked successfully for many years.

Mr Robert Atkins, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said that the debate harked back to the days when this sort of tokenism had caused difficulties.

Experience with worker-directors in the past had been that the division caused between the trade union movement and the worker-directors had been such that the latter no longer wanted to do the job.

The Government and the company recognized the important contribution that had been made by trade unions in the steel industry, particularly in the recent difficult years.

But directors would be appointed on merit as individuals, and would not be trade unionists or anything else. The time for token representation was past.

Ilea 'five wise men' scheme is defeated in the Lords

The following report of the Lords debate on the sixth day of the committee stage of the Education Reform Bill appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Government won substantial backing in a crucial vote in the House of Lords for the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority on April 1, 1990.

An amendment, which would have established a panel of five assessors to examine educational policy for inner London before Ilea was abolished, was rejected by 236 votes to 183 - Government majority, 53. It was tabled by Lord Kilmarnock (SDP), the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, and Lord Annan (Ind).

During a three-hour debate, Lady Hooper, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, gave assurances to peers to guarantee support for certain services after the demise of Ilea.

She said that government grants would be given to four adult education institutes, to be backed up by private funds, and £300,000 a year would be provided for three years to help to retain the headquarters of youth and voluntary bodies at present funded by Ilea.

MUSIC TUITION and the London Schools Symphony Orchestra would also be provided for, and an independent trust set up to preserve the Horniman and Geoffrey museums.

Winding up the debate, Lord Belstead, Leader of the Lords, said that amendments would be tabled at report stage to give additional guarantees that the new education authorities in the London boroughs would start life with strong management teams.

Before the start of the debate, Earl Russell (SDP) presented a petition on behalf of students, governors, staff and others connected with education in

EDUCATION

London, calling for a full review of education in the capital before abolition.

Moving the amendment, Lord Kilmarnock (SDP) said that at the second reading of the Bill, peers from all sides expressed their concern that the proposals for abolishing Ilea were hasty and ill thought out. They were introduced during the committee stage in the Commons and had not been in the original Bill or in the election manifesto.

He said that they were not seeking to whitewash Ilea, or to preserve it in its present form. In the past year or so there had been signs that Ilea was beginning to put its house in order.

To set up a panel of assessors would not be unduly cumbersome. The movers of the amendment also wanted an

early decision on the future pattern of education at all levels in inner London.

The Bishop of Southwark, Dr Ronald Bowley, said that it was not necessary to abolish Ilea in order to reduce costs. That process was already under way. There was enormous anxiety about how the transfer of responsibility to the borough councils was going to happen.

"We are looking into an abyss."

It was necessary to try to protect the many things that Ilea did well. For instance, he hoped that steps would be taken to preserve the first-class, cross-borough, adult education service.

Lord Annan (Ind) said that he faced the abolition of Ilea with considerable equanimity, but the amendment was entirely favourable to the Government and in no way challenged it.

Lady Hooper said that the

Government had put forward its proposals out of concern for the educational standards achieved by Ilea and also the high levels of expenditure.

"If we timidly shrink our responsibility at this point, we shall be failing hundreds of thousands of young people in inner London."

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (Con) said that if a panel of "five wise men" was set up it was evident that crippling uncertainty would continue for many years. The intention of the amendment was to delay abolition.

Lord Stewart of Fulham (Lab), a former Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that the Government had rushed ahead with abolition without looking before it leapt.

Lord Wyatt of Westford (Ind) said that the only thing Ilea was good at was bogus propaganda in trying to extend its own life.

Lord Hailsham of St Maryle-

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THE BEST HOLIDAYS FOR LESS

All smiles — for the moment and up to a point

Mrs Thatcher went to the House of Commons on Tuesday to make a tactical concession, and came away with a tactical triumph. That was because she decisively won the Commons vote on the gradualist exchanges of question time. She had also effectively restored the appearance of unity with her Chancellor.

It was enough to satisfy the short-term expectations that dominate Westminster. Conservative MPs were relieved that they could now brush aside all the talk of Cabinet splits. Most of them were also pleased that Mrs Lawson had stood up to Mrs Thatcher so successfully. A determined Chancellor and a suddenly collegiate Prime Minister — what more could they ask for?

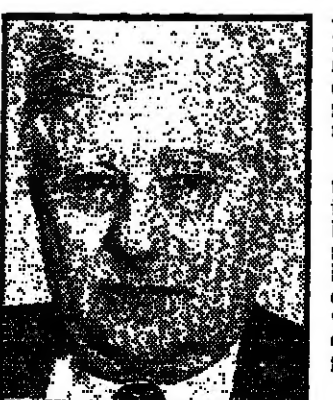
So the immediate reactions have been almost entirely favourable to the Government. But I am not persuaded that the Prime Minister and Chancellor have between them managed to

do more than buy a valuable breathing space.

Mrs Thatcher has not only accepted another cut in interest rates. More important, she acknowledged on Tuesday that both interest rates and intervention in the markets were available levers for exchange rate policy, to be used "as seems right in the circumstances".

But who is to judge when the circumstances are right? Is Mrs Thatcher really prepared to leave this critical area of economic policy entirely to Mr Lawson? What if the pound continues to rise against the German mark, despite this latest cut in interest rates? Will she then passively say: "Nigel must decide"?

If serious inflationary pressures return during the coming year, as a number of thoughtful Conservative MPs now fear, then there is not likely to be much disagreement between the Prime Minister and the Chan-



Geoffrey Smith

cellor on the next course of action. He is no more willing than she is to accept high inflation.

The difference between them is a technical one on the nature of the risk. But unless the evidence is incontrovertible — in

which case the Government will have an economic problem rather than just a political embarrassment — this difference may well come back to haunt the two of them as the pound rises.

Perhaps the greatest threat to their continued harmony is that inflation may start to rise again by just enough to alarm her, but not to upset him. She would be looking at the comparison with our main industrial competitors, while he would still be regarding exchange rate fluctuations as the greater danger.

Nor has the dispute over the EMS been settled. It was extraordinary that only Mr David Steel attempted to press this point during Tuesday's question time. Yet that remained the Government's most vulnerable political point in the present controversy once the interest rate had been decided.

Ministers are now agreed on immediate exchange-rate tactics. Mrs Thatcher has fallen

into line with Mr Lawson. On this issue at this moment they can present a united front. But they do not agree as to whether Britain should join the EMS.

It was Sir Geoffrey Howe's remarks on that question which caused such a furore at the end of last week. It is not a trifling matter and it will not go away. The larger the single European market in 1992 is looming, the more pressing the EMS choice is likely to seem. That this issue was not pushed on Tuesday was a measure of the Government's luck and the Opposition's incompetence.

Nor, despite the present smiles, does it seem probable that the personal difficulties at the top of the Government have really been resolved. Mrs Thatcher may have great respect for Mr Lawson's qualities, some of which she has had a further opportunity to appreciate this week.

But is she truly happy to have

a Chancellor who has forced her to go along with an economic policy that in her heart she mistrusts? There have been more frequent occasions than often realized when she has been persuaded to accept a course of action which she initially resisted. This is an example, however, not of her being persuaded but of her being pushed by political considerations.

It would not be surprising if she wanted a more amenable Chancellor. But she could not afford, even if she wished, either to get rid of Mr Lawson or to allow him just to drift off into the City. However warm the farewell messages, that would be taken as a sign that they were once again in dispute.

The only other post in the Cabinet in which Mr Lawson is known to be interested is that of Foreign Secretary. That is what makes Sir Geoffrey Howe's position so intriguing and of such consequence for the future pattern of this Government.

SPECTRUM

The reputation that precedes the new chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council may mislead as to his effectiveness

Nice pedigree

... nasty bite

THE TIMES PROFILE

SIR WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The effortless superiority of the Balliol man may today no longer be a self-evident proposition, but Sir William Rees-Mogg is nevertheless proof that it still exists.

From his school days at Charterhouse, where he seemed to move effortlessly upwards, if one perhaps excepts two years' resolutely undistinguished national service as an education sergeant in the RAF.

His superiority was certainly apparent to his contemporaries at Balliol just after the war, where he had a ground floor room overlooking the quadrangle, whence he could be seen nightly studying his texts by the light of a large table lamp. One member of the college was so incensed by this scene that he took an air rifle and shot out the light.

"The world's first young fogey" is how someone who has observed Sir William down the years has described him. Though now, at the age of 59, the first chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council is no longer remotely fogeyish, it was a just description once.

Younger, studious and grave in his invariable double-breasted dark blue suit, seemed prematurely aged.

The only surprise in his rise, perhaps, was that although he had a Brackenbury scholarship in history, which he won when only 16, and was the possessor of a first class mind, he achieved only a second in his history finals.

Having attracted the attention of Sir Gordon Newton by a piece of undergraduate journalism, he joined the *Financial Times* when

he came down from Oxford in 1952. Eight years later he joined *The Sunday Times*, first as City Editor and later as Deputy Editor to Denis Hamilton. He became

Editor of *The Times* when Lord Thomson took the paper over in 1966, and when he retired on its sale to Rupert Murdoch in 1981 he had completed almost 30 years in journalism. It may be instructive, therefore, to consider his career at *The Times* in more detail as a pointer to his handling of the Broadcasting Standards Council.

On taking over *The Times*, Denis Hamilton felt the paper needed innovation and expansion. A daily Business News section was hastily hung together, new writers acquired at salaries that were, perhaps unavoidably, unfair to the existing journalists, and foreign coverage, particularly of Russia and China, was greatly increased.

Rees-Mogg was as much committed as Hamilton to these changes. Their mistake was to try to do too much too quickly in a dash for growth. Inevitably the existing staff felt the newcomers were being brought in to show them how to do their jobs, and to convert the paper into a daily version of the more successful, but quite different, *Sunday Times*.

Meanwhile the Thomson regime of forcible feeding produced considerable production strains, which showed in the paper.

In the eyes of some *Times* staff, Rees-Mogg compounded these difficulties by going for publicity at all costs. His television interview with Mick Jagger was the most obvious example. Even-



ually 29 senior staff signed a round robin criticizing in a restrained way the effect of the changes, and asking for consultation before they went further.

Rees-Mogg was hurt that none of the most senior men involved had sought out or warned him earlier. But though he reacted by giving the assembled signatories a severe dressing down, he re-

established happy relations with nearly all. He appears never to bear enmity: the worst he can say of people is that they are tiresome. He has always been determined not to let the pressures of office get on top of him. He left the *Times* office by 7pm most days, happily handing over to assistants the business of assembling the nuts and bolts of the newspaper. Exec-

utives found it liberating to work for a man who trusted them to get on without reference to him, except to warn of anything that might later prove embarrassing. He has great quickness of mind allied to an astonishingly fluent pen. On the night that Nasser resigned as president of Egypt, Rees-Mogg was at Paddington Station awaiting the train home to

BIOGRAPHY
1928: born July 14. Educated Charterhouse and Balliol.
1952: joined *Financial Times*, chief leader writer then assistant editor.
1958: contested Chester-le-Street for Tories, and 1959 general election.
1960: became City Editor of *The Sunday Times*, Deputy Editor in 1964.
1962: married Gillian Shakespeare Morris. Two sons, three daughters.
1967: became Editor of *The Times*.
1978: appointed High Sheriff of Somerset.
1981: left *The Times* to run Pickering & Chatto, antiquarian book dealers.
Became vice-chairman of the BBC governors. Joined board of GEC.
1982: Chairman of the Arts Council.

Somerset. Paged by the station master, he returned to Printing House Square and dictated a 1,000-word leader, beautifully constructed, in 40 minutes.

Broadcasters are likely to discover him to be a formidable opponent in an argument. "It's more important to be right than to be consistent" is the sort of knock-down pronouncement with which he terminates discussions. He is good, one colleague says, at producing *post-hoc* arguments for positions instinctively adopted.

As an editor he is no stranger to controversy, which he does not disown. This has stood him in good stead as Chairman of the Arts Council, where he has steered a skilful and firm course through a sea of importunate clients.

He is not a prude. He was the first editor to allow a woman to be shown naked in *The Times*, in an advertisement for Fisons - on page three, as it happened. At the same time he is a vigorous defender of women. Just as he demands sympathetic handling for an alcoholic employee on the ground that he is ill, so he feels that women accused of shoplifting are often treated unfairly. The thing that revolts him most about pornography is that it involves the abuse of women. His views on sex and violence are so reasonable

that it is difficult to see anyone, even a libertine television producer, offering public dissent.

His new post will bring him into sharp contact with his old friend Marmaduke Hussey, Chairman of the BBC, with whom he worked closely and amicably when the latter was chief executive of *The Times*. Sir William admires Hussey as a tactician, Hussey admires him as a journalist, and both enjoy each other's company.

They may well, however, be set on a collision course, civilized though the impact may be. Sir William did not enjoy his service as a governor and deputy chairman of the BBC, where he felt ineffective, and is clearly determined not to be left powerless again.

Hussey, who has turned out to be a vigorous defender of the BBC, has already asked Sir William to have second thoughts about his demand to preview imported programmes, and is unlikely to agree to anything that looks like censorship. The irony is that the two men, of the same decent instincts, are almost certain to agree on what sort of matter ought not to be broadcast. Their only difference will be over the mechanics of suppression.

John Grant

Turning up the volumes

Any spies from Sotheby's book department who happen this week to be lurking around the dusty shelves of its great rival, Bloomsbury Book Auctions, may have cause for alarm. The two directors, Lord John Kerr and Frank Herrmann, have been sighted peering over a huge copy of Napoleon's *Mémoires de Saint-Hilaire* (for the "Service des Vaisseaux de l'Empereur"). Complete with close-up charts of estimates and profits, it is intended as a vital tool for anyone planning a purchase. Which is exactly what they are trying to do.

Lord John and Herrmann, while not the Philby and Maclean of the book world, might be regarded as such by Sotheby's. Head of its book department and the company historian respectively, they defected five years ago to set up their own camp. Now they are preparing to conquer the book world with their fifth anniversary sale on June 30.

Apart from the Napoleonic atlas, estimated at up to £30,000, highlights include a first edition of George Washington's *Journal* (£15,000 to £20,000); the first French Protestant Bible (estimate £10,000); first editions of Evelyn Waugh's *Black Mischief* and *A Handful of Dust*, and 60 lots devoted to books illustrated by



SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
A weekly look at the art world

Thomas and John Bewick. The two men revel in their new business: "Sotheby's were used to people leaving to become dealers, but not becoming full-scale auctioneers. We told them, and they didn't know what to do. There was no precedent." Herrmann says to the accompaniment of the classical music that wheedles through the premises. "We have a very pleasant relationship with our clients. There is no internal politics here."

Lord John joins in "Sotheby's criterion is maximum publicity. They said it wasn't economically possible to sell a

full range of books from the most expensive down to the cheapest, so we set up shop to show it." He adds that he is proud of his "warts and all" catalogue descriptions.

This generosity offered by the two men includes: buy Walter Scott, Galeworthy and Byron. "They are just not in fashion at the moment and seem to be bought for £30 to £40." Likewise Bernard Shaw, who should be in for a boom when Michael Holroyd's much publicized biography comes out.

Their coups have included the sale in 1984 of the Jendewine collection of finely-printed 15th to 20th century books for £300,000. The following year they achieved an impressive £143,000 for the 18th-century volume manuscript of the Ashkenazi prayer book.

But there have also been failures, as when under the glare of the television lights, John "Room at the Top" Braine's diaries failed to sell, as well as some minor skeletons in the cupboard. For example, in the trade Lord John is held by some to be responsible for the disappearance of Hodgson's, a much-admired family firm which was taken over during his 20 years at Sotheby's and closed in 1978. All that remains is the

rostrum which Bloomsbury now uses.

Also, like Sotheby's, Bloomsbury has been known to handle the occasional consignment that turns out to be troublesome: for instance, an important group of French 18th-century scientific papers which, just before the sale, was blocked by the French government. (Bloomsbury later sold them by private treaty.) This week it was revealed that Bloomsbury had inadvertently sold a consignment allegedly stolen from two Benedictine monasteries.

However, their advance progresses. They have left behind a fierce rival in the form of Roy Davies, now head of books and manuscripts at Sotheby's, who learnt the trade at Lord John's knee from 1970.

Driven by his favourite phrase, "business getting", Davies has succeeded in taking manuscripts and autograph letters into a sphere no one would have thought possible five years ago. Last year alone, Sotheby's London book and manuscript sales rose £11.5 million to £20.8 million, one record alone being the de Belder Library of colour-plate books, which sold for twice its estimate at £5.9 million. To beat that, the Napoleonic atlas has a long way to go.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1568

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Stage front arch (10)	1 Red pepper seasoning (7)
2 Centrality-funded account (7)	2 Reaching compartment (4)
3 Malay island (5)	3 Soft, skimmed milk cheese (7,6)
4 Labour (4)	4 Fussy, petty (8)
5 Carmina Burana composer (4,4)	5 Open sore (5)
6 Guiding spirit (5)	6 Wound fabric (4)
7 Cold Spanish soup (8)	7 Scientist (6)
8 Chew (4)	8 Archduke Ferdinand's death place (8)
9 Line-fed TV (5)	9 Gift in will (6)
10 Earth's great circle (7)	10 Meeting notes (7)
11 Ski-ing trousers (10)	11 Equum burrelli (5)
	12 Wauchful (4)
	13 Secret (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1567
ACROSS: 3 Exam 5 Gump 8 Cream 10 Astronomy 11 Onion 12 Car 13 Dhobi 14 Nothing 16 Grenade 18 Vomit 20 Nae 22 Rebel 23 Cocoon 24 Salve 25 Robs 26 Deft
DOWN: 1 Accord 2 Semitone 3 Emancipation 4 Astern 6 Aboy 7 Frying 9 Mount Everest 15 Immobile 16 Grocer 17 Entree 19 Tiller 21 Snob

TOMORROW

Violence to villages: are housing developers creeping into the cracks in government Green Belt policy?



Mavericks of the bookselling world: Bloomsbury's Frank Herrmann, left, and Lord John Kerr with the Napoleonic atlas

I.N.G.E.N.U.I.T.Y. Round 16

● Ingenuity is a general knowledge competition being played over 18 days with 10 questions a day. The authors of the first six correct entries to be opened at the end of the competition will each receive a set of the 1988 Encyclopaedia Britannica, in a blue binding, worth £2,280.
● The questions vary in difficulty. The answer to each question is a single word or name - but the number of letters in the answers does NOT correspond with the number of boxes - except for the longest.
● To some you may know the answers but mostly you will have to use reference books to ferret them out.
● Cut out this coupon and keep it until the end of the contest

- Alternative English name for the common sea scorpion-called a father-lasher.
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- Buying or selling ecclesiastical preferment; because of the sorcerer of Samaria.
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- Common name for the chemical weapon which is Chlorovinyll Dichlorarsine.
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- Father of St James of Compostela.
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- French word for a designer like Oldfield, Lagerfeld and Yamamoto.
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- Machine that indirectly financed the Prince de Polignac and Isadora Duncan.
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- Name of the man who founded the Nuremberg school of Bohemian glass engravers: a pupil of Lehmann.
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- Prison where an inventor of rustic pottery died in 1589 because he would not change his religion.
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- Professional activity common to Hine, Adamson, Hill and Lange.
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
- In which country is Guatavita Lake, associated since the 16th century with legends of the gilded man?
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

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1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

FIRE IN THE UKRAINE

The Pentagon discloses details of an explosion and fire which occurred last week at a plant making fuel for the Soviet Union's new long-range missile. It says the plant has been shut down. The Soviet Foreign Ministry promptly confirms that an explosion took place. It adds subsequently that three people died and denies either that the fire was "catastrophic" or that the plant itself was affected.

The Soviet and US accounts are not entirely incompatible but two questions remain unanswered. Is the Pavlograd plant still working? Has the Soviet missile programme been affected? While it is still too early for a definitive answer to have emerged to either of these, the manner and sequence of the disclosures permits one conclusion at least. The Soviet authorities are still tardy - too tardy - about reporting accidents.

There has been some progress since the shameful silence about the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. Within hours of yesterday's announcement from the United States, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman was providing on-the-record confirmation to Western news agencies and radio listeners. Mindful of his audience, no doubt, he also took the opportunity to chide his country's domestic media for their failure to report the accident first.

So far, so good. But if Russians still have to rely on foreign satellites and foreign radio for news of untoward events in their own country, then *glasnost* has not spread very far.

The five-day delay could reflect the continuing difficulties of internal communications or local buck-passing of the sort that delayed the Chernobyl announcement. It could also be the result of a conscious decision on matters of state secrecy taken at the highest level. It is still too long.

In this particular case, the military nature of the plant may help to explain Soviet reticence. Military objects come under special regulations largely excluded from the policy of

glasnost. But a comparison between American reporting of the US missile fuel plant fire two weeks ago and the latest Soviet accident shows how far *glasnost* still has to go before it is worthy of the name.

Whatever the reasons for the delay, the accident could hardly have come at a worse time for Moscow. Only a month ago, a Soviet report acknowledged that safety standards at Chernobyl were still inadequate. This week, there was a fatal fire on a Soviet cruise ship. While the Soviet leader might be able to use this latest accident - as he was belatedly able to use Chernobyl - to illustrate the urgent need for change, this can come only later. The military nature of the crippled plant and the imminent summit with President Reagan mean that he will have to tread cautiously.

At the summit, Mr Gorbachev is expected to argue for a treaty cutting numbers of long-range nuclear missiles. Any damage to the long-range missile programme will weaken the Soviet bargaining position. It will restrict Mr Gorbachev's room for manoeuvre and make progress towards a treaty less likely. Yet progress is something the Soviet leader needs if he is to strengthen his domestic position. Shortly after the summit he will face the special party conference - the meeting which can approve or stall his programme of reform.

Nor could the accident have happened in a worse place. The Ukraine, which has preserved a strong sense of nationhood despite repeated Russian attempts to suppress it, was also where the Chernobyl disaster happened. Chernobyl became the focus of anti-nuclear and anti-Russian sentiment. The Pavlograd accident will only strengthen those feelings. At a time when other republics of the Soviet Union are facing the problems brought by heightened national consciousness, additional friction in the Ukraine - the most populous republic and one of the most industrialized - is something Mr Gorbachev could well do without.

BY-ELECTION TIME

In 1962 the Conservatives delayed the Orpington by-election for almost six months before losing the seat to the Liberals on a swing of 27 per cent. If that swing had been repeated nationally it would have left the Conservatives with only one seat in Parliament - South Kensington.

Boundaries have since changed and the death yesterday of the veteran backbencher, Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, leaves the Government to fight the first by-election of this Parliament in what is almost a marginal seat. It is also the first by-election for more than a year, the longest time without such a contest for three hundred years. The interest among politicians and journalists - for whom a London by-election is an especially fascinating and convenient occasion - is already strong.

They are unlikely to have a long wait. Electoral conventions have changed since the Orpington upset and a delay of more than four months is now frowned upon. Moreover the Conservatives will not want to fight in July or August when so many of their hard-core supporters go away to escape the city summer - and that infamous Notting Hill carnival enjoyed by constituents who are rather less likely to vote Tory. From the Government's point of view the poll may be best fought in early June.

The Conservative majority of 4,447 sounds more vulnerable than it probably is. The constituency has almost the smallest electorate

in London and comparatively few of them, according to tradition, take the trouble to vote. Holland Park is more influential than the Portobello Road. Sir Brandon, respected both for his adherence to the cause of Europe and his genuine disinterest in personal advancement, leaves a useful political legacy.

Labour's base is in the remains of the old North Kensington seat which it held firmly till 1974. This area last came to national political prominence in 1959 after the Notting Hill riots of the previous year led Sir Oswald Mosley to choose it for his last electoral challenge.

Sir Oswald won only 4 per cent of the vote. Dr David Owen, not unreasonably, resents any comparison between himself and the last lonely leader-without-a-party to walk the political stage. But the arguments for the SDP do not look good in Kensington. In the last election the Alliance secured barely half the Labour percentage. Its candidate was firmly on Mr David Steel's side in the merger debate and there is little scope for an Owenite challenge.

In modern by-elections there is no such thing as a foregone conclusion. Labour needs a 7 per cent swing to win and the opinion polls suggest that, nationwide, there has been a 4 per cent swing since last June. Pundits and pollsters will have a field day, hoping for a repeat of the sensational by-election reverses in neighbouring Fulham in 1930, 1933, 1938 and again in 1986. This summer there will be two carnivals for Notting Hill.

PUBLISH THE BURNAGE REPORT

Manchester City Council has decided not to publish in full the Macdonald report on the circumstances surrounding the murder of a 13 year old Asian boy at Burnage High School, and on the way in which the school conducted its so-called anti-racist policy. This is deplorable.

Of 22 chapters that were written only an 11-chapter version is to be published. The cause is ostensibly that the council fears significant parts of the report to be defamatory. This is unlikely to be the whole story.

The report concerns the stabbing of an Asian pupil by a white boy known beforehand to have psychiatric problems. The boy who committed the crime had already been responsible for a serious act of arson in the school for which, instead of being expelled, he was placed by the headmaster under a deputy's supervision which proved to be ineffective.

The report apparently indicates a racial aspect to the murder, even though it was committed by a mentally disturbed boy. There was apparently no evidence of serious racial tension in the school before the crime.

But the report also shows that the basis of potential strife had been already created by the headmaster's policy of creating a special department in the school to deal with racial affairs. This department reflected only the Asian and Afro-Caribbean elements and excluded the whites.

Worse still, the crime was treated as a community event rather than as an individual tragedy and the whites were ostracized still further, even being forbidden to attend the dead boy's funeral. It was this approach which precipitated the outbreaks of racial violence which took place after the killing.

Since then teachers at Burnage have been working together to try to reshape a sensible policy to prevent racial disharmony and it is good that Mr Ian Macdonald, the barrister who headed the panel which produced the report, is prepared to brief the teachers at the school on its findings if they so wish.

Mr Macdonald, who has specialized in race relations, has made it quite plain that he thinks the report should be published in full. Having taken other legal advice as well, he is apparently confident that it can be published without risk of legal action and with the removal at most of only a few sentences.

This seems to indicate that there is no justification of the Labour council's refusal to publish. This is more likely to be motivated by a wish to avoid public discussion of the implications of its anti-racist policies and the violence and indiscipline in some of its schools.

The matter cannot be allowed to rest there. The Education Secretary, Mr Kenneth Baker, has a moral obligation to take some action to influence the lines on which so-called anti-racist education is conducted. What is more, he clearly has a sensible notion of how it should be done.

When he was in Manchester recently he went out of his way to draw public attention to the constructive way in which race relations were dealt with at another school in the city, Levenshulme school. Good conduct is inculcated there by example, by implication and by teaching pupils as individuals to respect one another as friends and human beings. It is not done by ramming theories of "anti-racism" down their throats in a manner more likely to offend and antagonize than to unite children from different communities.

Instead of teaching the children about "racism," which can put the idea into the heads of some of them, and instead of making one community angry with another by stressing mistreatment, the teachers teach both their academic subjects and decent behaviour between individual children, regardless of race as good teachers have always tried to do.

Where there is any sign of racially motivated violence they act immediately but their initial tactics are based on the rule recognized by every good parent and teacher - that when values are firmly indicated children will tend to live up to what is expected of them.

A copy of the largely suppressed report has gone to Mr Baker. He may not feel free to release what is not his property. But he can act on it.

It should not be impossible for him, taking a lesson or two from Levenshulme and other schools with the same positive example, to lay down guidelines which schools (and, indeed, the so-called multi-cultural centres who are funded by the Home Office) should be expected to follow. It would even do no harm if Parliament itself debated a matter so vital to Britain's future citizens.

Edward Heath defends his record

From Mr Edward Heath, MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup (Conservative)

Sir, Your attack on my Government's policies (leading article, May 16) illustrates perfectly the point I made in the Harold Macmillan lecture about the change in times and political fashions.

My Government's first priority was the creation of economic growth to provide a return to full employment.

In pursuing this policy I had the complete support of the Cabinet, the public who elected me and most of the economists, newspaper editors and financial commentators of the day.

Your newspaper greeted Anthony Barber's expansionist Budgets with enthusiasm. Just before the second Budget, in the spring of 1972, your leader proclaimed that political and economic judgement alike require the Chancellor to go all out for full employment. And after the Chancellor cut taxes by £1,200 million, with the intention of raising the rate of growth to 5 per cent, you considered it by no means certain whether he has done all that was required of him on either economic or social grounds (*The Times*, March 21 and 22, 1972).

The fact is that when I was Prime Minister it was considered my first duty to bring down unemployment. I well remember the Cabinet discussions which concluded that one million people out of work was socially intolerable and politically unacceptable.

My Government therefore pursued policies which created economic growth and reduced unemployment to 584,000 by the time we left office at the beginning of March, 1974. We actually cut taxes to the point where the overall burden of taxation was less as a percentage of GDP than it is today.

Nevertheless, inflation was a major concern of ours throughout that period and your allegation that my policy had been "to let the economy slip into dangerous inflation" is utterly without foundation.

The principal cause of inflation was the massive four-fold increase in oil prices imposed upon us by the Opec countries in the autumn of 1973, together with the world increase in prices in

other essential commodities. None in the West was prepared for this shock to their economies.

It was because I was aware of the national dangers inherent in expansionist economics that I was so determined to introduce trade union reform and gain agreement on wage restraint. You allege that I failed to carry through trade union reform. What of the Industrial Relations Act in 1971?

It was a wide-ranging attempt to control trade union power which was swept away by the incoming Labour Government in 1974. That same Government also abandoned any attempt at wage restraint and so vastly increased inflation. If the Conservatives had won the election in February, 1974, we would have kept wages down through negotiations with the unions and continued the policy of managed growth to reduce unemployment.

As I said last week, I welcome the present Government's achievements of renewed economic growth, reduced taxation and trade union reform. These were all objectives the Prime Minister shared with me when she sat in my Cabinet between 1970 and 1974 and I am pleased that they have been achieved today.

But I continue to believe that unemployment is unacceptable at the present level and that the Government must do more to spread the fruits of economic prosperity through the whole nation.

I am perfectly entitled to express my views about other specific aspects of Government policy, such as the poll tax or the social security changes, which I oppose, as indeed I am about those policies I support, such as the national curriculum or the campaign for a single European market by 1992.

You, alas, are apparently so determined to obscure the achievements of the Conservative Government of 1970-74 that you attack me, whether I support the present Government or not.

May I suggest that on the next occasion you are moved to re-write history, you read what your own newspaper said at the time. Yours faithfully, EDWARD HEATH, House of Commons, May 17.

Contingency fees

From Mr Stephen J. Roth

Sir, When considering the introduction to this country of aspects of United States legal practice or procedure, one should bear in mind a fundamental difference in US trial procedure which is at least partly responsible for the popularity of the contingency fee in that country (as well as for a number of more iniquitous aspects of its legal system).

In the courts of most of the states of the US, issues of liability and quantum of damages in personal injury and other tort and contract actions are decided by a jury, and not by judges. They are decided by a group of lay-people who are most likely to reach their determination based on their sympathy for one or other party, if and to the extent elicited by the advocacy of that party's counsel.

Although there are grounds on which a jury's verdict may be overturned, these grounds are

limited and the US system has a far greater tendency than the English to produce decisions which are not well founded in law and damages awards that are absurdly high. Hence, the astonishing expense of indemnity and liability insurance in the United States.

Surely the only possible danger in permitting a prospective litigant to be able to agree a contingency fee with his lawyer, where they both choose to do so, is that clients (and sometime lawyers) might not know when it was in their best interest to agree that the contingency basis would apply and when it would be in their interest to use the conventional basis. In many cases, a lay client might need independent advice in order to evaluate the merits and demerits of each option in the particular circumstances.

Yours faithfully, S. J. ROTH, 176 Holland Park Avenue, W11, May 12.

Long way from home

From Mrs Shirley Moore

Sir, I see from an item in today's *Times* (May 16) that post is delivered more rapidly in NI if the postcode is omitted.

I wonder how to speed mail from here to my mother, in Hereford, which normally takes five days by first-class post, doubtless due in part to the fact that three recent letters from me arrived with postmarks indicating they had travelled via Redhill, Cardiff and, the most recent, Chester.

Yours faithfully, SHIRLEY MOORE, 6 Russell Close, Brentwood, Essex, May 16.

Teachers and stress

From Dr A. D. Pethybridge

Sir, Extracts from *The Times* on successive days this week make an interesting contrast.

Ministers believe that middle-aged executives... may accept a drop in salary for a less stressful job as a schoolteacher (May 11). A survey of 10,000 teachers in the South-west suggested one teacher in four had been physically assaulted (May 12).

Less stressful? Yours faithfully, A. D. PETHYBRIDGE, 21 Phillimore Road, Emmer Green, Reading, Berkshire.

Foot fault

From Mr T. E. B. Clarke

Sir, When I was very young my grandfather died from a heart attack while stooping to tie up a shoelace. An uncle said to me: "Let that be a lesson to you, my boy. Never go down to your feet; always bring your feet up to you".

I feel I have a duty to pass on that excellent advice.

Yours truly, T. E. B. CLARKE, 33 Oakleigh Court, Church Lane, Otford, Surrey.

Control of disease

From Mr T. B. Fielden

Sir, Your report today (May 13) following the death of Mr Jim Morgan from legionnaires' disease, highlights a tragic deficiency in communication.

The Health and Safety Executive published Guidance Note EH48 in January, 1987. It deals comprehensively with legionnaires' disease and how it can be controlled by proper design, maintenance and chemical treatment of water services. Other documents of a similar nature have been published by the Industrial Water Society and the Building Research Establishment. During the past five years there have been numerous seminars and conferences on the topic.

Given the present state of knowledge, there is no reason why this recent outbreak should have occurred. Can the explanation be that the necessary information is not reaching those who need it?

Yours, T. B. FIELDEN, Water Treatment Consultancy Services, 55 The Loam, Winsford, Cheshire, May 13.

Bath's portrait

From Councillor L. J. H. Coombs

Sir, Your report on Bath's acquisition of Gainsborough's portrait of Captain Wade (May 13) implies that the city council funded the full sum of £216,556.

The cash settlement agreed with the vendor was funded by grants of £20,000 from the National Art Collections Fund, £66,556 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and £130,000 from the Franklin Mint Fund, which was formed from sponsorship royalties earned by the Museum of Costume.

Yours faithfully, L. J. H. COOMBS (Chairman, Spa and Recreation Committee, Bath City Council), 32 St James's Park, Bath, Avon, May 13.

Short-stay burden of poll tax

From the General of the Salvation Army

Sir, On Monday the House of Lords will begin detailed consideration of the Local Government Finance Bill. Through the courtesy of your columns I wish to draw the attention of your readers and, in particular, the attention of peers to a hitherto little publicized aspect of the measure.

In its present form it will require the levying of a collective community charge in premises where the residents stay only for short periods and are not undertaking a full-time course of education. This provision will affect virtually all of the 50 residential social work centres run by the Salvation Army throughout England and Wales.

For the first time in this country we shall be legally obliged (with many other charitable bodies engaged in similar work) to function as agents of government for the collection of a public tax from our clients. This will have a subtle but profoundly damaging effect on our relationship with those who come to us for assistance. That relationship is, at the best of times, a delicate one. Those we are able to help are often social casualties, bearing emotional and psychological scars.

It is essential to the success of our rehabilitative work that res-

idents in our centres feel able to trust us and this in turn depends significantly upon the fact that they do not regard us as in any way representing authority. The unprecedented proposals in the Bill relating to the collective community charge now add unnecessarily to the problems we face.

Our prolonged and repeated representations to Government officials and ministers on the point have proved fruitless. Our assertions, it appears, are either not believed or are seen as a threat to the Bill as a whole. Yet to introduce an amendment which would either take out the collective community charge provisions altogether or, alternatively, would exempt from those provisions residents in centres run on a charitable basis would hardly undermine the basic rationale of the Bill. Rather, it would allow the Government to display a reasonable, even compassionate, spirit in granting a relatively minor modification of the measure.

Dare we hope to see that spirit prevailing in the House of Lords next week? Yours faithfully, EVA BURROWS, The Salvation Army, International Headquarters, 101 Queen Victoria Street, EC4, May 17.

Aerosol research

From Mr Mark Gorman

Sir, I was interested to read Mr C. E. Tate's letter of May 7, in which he claimed that aerosol manufacturers, including ICI, are seriously involved in developing alternatives to CFCs (chloro-fluorocarbons). Why, I wonder, is argon gas not being considered? It seems ideally suited to the task, for several reasons:

First, it is the third most abundant element in the air, making up almost 1 per cent of the Earth's atmosphere.

Second, it is chemically inert to the extent that there do not exist any stable compounds of argon with any other elements. It cannot possibly be harmful to the ozone layer, since it has been co-existing with it for millions of years.

Third, it must be a plentiful by-product of the liquefaction of air to produce liquid nitrogen and oxygen for industry.

In using atmospheric argon in aerosols, we would merely be putting back into the atmosphere what we removed from it in the first place, thus maintaining the natural mixture of the elements in the air. Why is it currently being wasted? Yours faithfully, M. R. GORMAN, 28 Empire House, Thurloe Place, SW7.

Battle of Dover

From the President of the Dover Incorporated Chamber of Commerce

Sir, "The Battle of Dover" as you styled it in your leading article of April 27, is not confined to the dispute in the ferry industry. It is being fought by the town in responding to the creation of the Channel tunnel, coupled with the Single European Market and the loss of the duty-free advantages in the 1990s.

Much positive work has been undertaken to convert the hearts and minds of local people generally, and the business community in particular, to the anticipated changes which the fixed-link challenge might bring about.

The Chamber of Commerce has been in the forefront of moves to diversify the local economy from its present narrow base - in and around the port - to the wider base of industry, commerce, the port and tourism.

A long public inquiry has just been concluded on the proposed route of the new A20 into Dover. The A2 between Lydd and Dover must also be upgraded to dual-carriageway status so that the busiest ferry port in the world can be served by an infrastructure of a standard no less than that which will serve the tunnel, its main competitor in the cross-Channel stakes of the 1990s.

Interestingly, the Channel tunnel promoters have not had to overcome similar hurdles to provide its infrastructure, which gives credence to the view, firstly, that Dover is the dispensable item in the Government's future cross-Channel policy and, secondly, that there is a residual fear that given infrastructure of a similar standard to that serving the link, Dover will not only compete with it but see it off.

These are the real issues in "The Battle of Dover". Yours faithfully, PETER SHERRED, President, Dover Incorporated Chamber of Commerce, Victoria Cottage, Russell Street, Dover, Kent, May 18.

Spy's true colours?

From Dr Stephen Elliott

Sir, I read with interest the reports of the funeral of Kim Philby in Russia in today's newspapers. His body was variously reported as being dressed in a jet-black jacket, white shirt and red tie (*Independent*), a dark-blue suit, pale-blue shirt and red spotted tie (*Times*) and a smart grey suit, white shirt and red tie flecked with white spots (*Daily Telegraph*). His final act of disinformation? I remain, yours faithfully, S. ELLIOTT, Trinity College, Cambridge, May 14.

ON THIS DAY

MAY 19 1900

The official confirmation of the relief of Mafeking came a day after the following report (*Times*, May 19, 1900), but London was not waiting for that. News agency reports were enough to unleash a historic outburst of patriotic fervour.

THE WAR. THE RELIEF OF MAFKING.

SCENES IN LONDON.

... At 9 o'clock all was quiet and ordinary at 11 the West-end had gone wild. [a Correspondent writes]. The first thing I noticed on turning out of Cavendish-square into Regent-street was a cab rank in which nearly every vehicle had a little Union Jack stuck on the top. "Mafeking!" I said at once to myself. Then a man or two ran by and a few shouts fell on the air. A street news-vendor rushed up the pavement shouting, "He was selling the 'war edition' of a halfpenny evening paper for twopenny a copy. I bought one and read the scanty details under a gas lamp. "Is it true that Mafeking is relieved, Sir?" he asked. "Well, this is what it says," I cautiously replied and read the news out - "Mafeking has been relieved. Food has entered the garrison. Enemy dispersed. Rejoice!"

At every step down Regent-street the excitement increased, and at Oxford-circus the people were running in all directions and shouting. Down the broad thoroughfare I went with the stream, and already on every omnibus we met going up the people were waving flags and cheering the pedestrians with cheers and counter-cheers. Where all the flags came from puzzled me. Four people out of five must have come out provided with them. The further I got down the street the thicker grew the throng and the wilder the excitement. Bands of young men and young women hung past waving flags and shouting until towards the Quadrant the cheers became a continuous roar. Above one large shop on the east side the balconies and windows were filled with people who waved not only flags, but every sort of thing they could lay hold of, including blankets, table cloths, towels, and various feminine garments which are usually displayed only on a clothes line.

By this time the balconies and windows everywhere were becoming alive with people, the pavement was almost impassable, and the vehicles had much ado to get along at all. At Piccadilly-circus matters culminated. The crowd nearly filled the broad open spaces, and as the stream of omnibuses and of cabs bringing people from the theatre thickened it grew slower and slower and then ceased. The circus was jammed with people. Then a cornet or some such instrument struck up "God Save the Queen". Immediately thousands of voices took it up and in a twinkling every hat was off. It was a wonderful sight under the glare of the Criterion lamps. The walls all round the big space alive with cheering and gesticulating figures. The pavements and the streets black with them, and motionless among them the blocked stream of omnibuses and cabs.

From Piccadilly-circus I went on through Leicester-square down towards Charing-cross. The throng was not so dense here as in Piccadilly, but it grew thicker from moment to moment. All round Trafalgar-square it ran and danced and shouted. Opposite Charing-cross station it gathered in masses, and along the Strand it marched in series ranks, waving, singing, cheering. And so on towards the City. Truly a wonderful sight.

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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 18: Mr Mark Elliott was received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary to the Republic of Ireland.

His Excellency Datuk Jamaluddin bin Abdul Aziz (Minister of Education, Malaysia) was received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary to the United Kingdom.

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Crafts Exhibition at Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Dudley and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands (the Earl of Aylesford).

The Princess Royal, attended by the Hon. Mrs. Legge-Bourke, travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

The Queen was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel the Lord Charteris of Amisfield (Permanent Lord in Waiting) at the Memorial Service for Captain Oliver Dawson which was held in the Church of St. Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall, London EC2 today.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 18: Having travelled in the Royal Train, the Prince and Princess of Wales this morning opened St. Luke's (Cheshire) Hospice Day Care Centre at Grosvenor House, Ways Green, Winsford, Cheshire.

His Royal Highness subsequently visited Castle Hill Farm, Castle Hill, Northwich.

Her Royal Highness, President, Dr. Barnardo's, visited the Chester Families Project at the Croft, Mannings Lane South, Hoole, Chester.

The Prince and Princess of Wales afterwards opened the Shell Lubricants Centre at Ellesmere Port.

Her Royal Highness subsequently travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith, Miss David Wright and Mr. Christopher Lavender were in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
May 18: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by Sir Martin Gilliat at the Memorial Service for Captain Oliver Dawson which was held in the Church of St. Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall today.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess Snowdon, was represented by Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick at the Memorial Service for Captain Oliver Dawson which was held in the Church of St. Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall today.

The Duchess of Gloucester was present this evening at a Reception given by NADFAS (The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) at Christies, King Street, London, SW1, to mark the Association's 20th Anniversary.

Mr Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
May 18: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, this evening attended a concert of the Newbury Spring Festival given by the Halle Orchestra at St. Nicholas Parish Church, Newbury, Berkshire.

Mrs Alan Henderson was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
May 17: Princess Alexandra this afternoon visited the Princess Alexandra Hospital at Harlow, Essex.

In the evening, Her Royal Highness was present at a Gala Concert in aid of the West Essex and East Essex Cancer Appeal, at the Harlow Sports Centre.

Mrs. Peter Alfa was in attendance.

Honour for heroine



Miss Pauline Cutting, the surgeon who work saved many lives in Palestinian refugee camps, who became an honorary Doctor of Science at the City University, London yesterday.

Thanksgivings and memorials

Captain Oliver Dawson
The Queen was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Charteris of Amisfield and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Martin Gilliat at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Captain Oliver Dawson held yesterday at St. Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall today.

The service was held at St. Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall today. The service was held at St. Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall today. The service was held at St. Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall today.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.N.C. Berrill and Mrs C.D.A. Berry
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Captain Patrick Berrill and the late Mrs Berrill, of Notchcliffe House, Deerbury, Gloucestershire, and Carolyn, daughter of General Sir James and Lady Glover, of Medstead, Hampshire.

Mr J.P. Rosenwald and Miss C. Hatchison
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of the late Dr. C.D. Rosenwald and of Mrs Jean Rosenwald, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Clare, daughter of Sir Michael and Lady Hutchison, of Albury, Guildford, Surrey.

Mr S.A. Creagh Chapman and Miss C.D. Creagh
The engagement is announced between Simon, second son of Mr and Mrs M. Creagh Chapman, of Reigate, Surrey, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs C.M.S. Crompton, of Walbridge, St. Lawrence, Berkshire.

Lieutenant E.T. Dawling, RN and Miss D.E.M. Beasbuck
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs A.P. Dawling, of Alverstoke, Hampshire, and Diana, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs C.H. Beasbuck, of Salish, Cornwall.

Dr M.R. Duffy and Miss A.M. Stradling
The engagement is announced between Martin, elder son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Duffy, of Alverstoke, Hampshire, and Annette, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Stradling, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Mr J.C. Elchiff and Miss C.E. St Aubyn
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Elchiff, of Finchley, London, and Camilla Elizabeth, daughter of the late Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs G.P. St Aubyn, and eldest daughter of Mrs T.E. St Aubyn, of Ashford Hill, Hampshire.

Mr F. Iseli and Miss S.V. Kenally-Smith
The engagement is announced between Fritz, son of Mr and Mrs Fritz Iseli, of Bern, Switzerland, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Kenally-Smith, of Knutsford, Cheshire, and Mrs J. Leysbourne-Needham, of Arley, Cheshire.

Mr R.P. Rorids and Miss E.L. Williams
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 14, 1988, at St Margaret's Church, Bodelwyddan, between Mr Radcliffe Rorids and Miss Emma Williams. The Rev Raymond Byles, the Rev Hugh Hughes and the Rev Philip Hughes officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Antonia Williams, Olivia Dickinson, Sophie McCann, and Jacqueline Thomas. The bridesmaids were Mrs Verek and Rory Wilson. Mr Mark Wood was best man.

A reception was held at Bodelwyddan Castle and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr A.E. Singer and Mrs A.C. McCarron
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 14, 1988, at St Margaret's Church, Bodelwyddan, between Mr Alfred Singer and Mrs Christine McCarron (née Evans). The Rev Hugh Hughes and the Rev Philip Hughes officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Antonia Williams, Olivia Dickinson, Sophie McCann, and Jacqueline Thomas. The bridesmaids were Mrs Verek and Rory Wilson. Mr Mark Wood was best man.

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OBITUARY

SIR BRANDON RHYS WILLIAMS

A Tory social reformer

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, Bt, MP for Kensington, who died yesterday, although young enough for a politician — he was only 60 — belonged to the old school of paternalistic Tories.

He was among the most active backbenchers, more effective than most in having ideas taken over by the Government.

But he was often in conflict with the Conservative Whip. His principles transcended his party considerations. Of his place under the Thatcher régime, he once commented: "As an Old Etonian, a landowner and an ex-Guardsman, I have all the disadvantages."

Brandon Meredith Rhys Williams was born on November 14, 1927, of stock that fitted him for politics with a conscience. His father was Sir Rhys Rhys Williams, a former Liberal MP. His mother, Lady (Juliet) Rhys Williams, DBE, played a notable part in the debate during the 1940s on the shape of social services after the war. Her young son helped with the tables in a famous pamphlet that she produced — "I was quicker at arithmetic than she was," he said.

The subject of the pamphlet was how to link income tax with the payment of social security benefits. It was a simple plan for making the relatively rich help the relatively poor, and he advocated the same principle, through a variety of devices, throughout his political career. His dream was of a basic income guarantee for all.

He was educated at Eton and then at Bolton Technical College, and served in the Welsh Guards between 1946 and 1948.

Until 1962 he worked for ICI, and then spent a year as assistant director (appeals) of the Spastics Society. From 1963 to 1971 he was a staff and management consultant.

His first electioneering was in Wales, in the Labour stronghold of Pontypridd in 1959. Then he was given the leadership task of opposing Michael Foot when he took over Bevan's old seat at Ebbw Vale in 1960.

But in 1968 Rhys Williams was given one of the safest Conservative seats in the country. He was elected (over Christopher Soames and Geoffrey Howe) to fight a by-election in South Kensington.

As a backbencher, the causes he espoused included those of pensioners (he managed to secure a relaxation of the earnings rule); of small shareholders (his Companies (Audit Committee) Bill finally got through the Commons only last Friday); and of occupiers of flats (many of his

recommendations were adopted in the Landlord and Tenant Bill of 1986).

In his time he had been an advocate of proportional representation and of reducing the powers of hereditary peers.

An example of how he could be in the forefront of social reform came in 1966 when he wrote a pamphlet calling for earnings-related National Insurance and for the amalgamation of family allowances and child tax allowances. Both proposals were later adopted.

In 1974, boundary changes meant that he had to seek re-election for what was now to be the much less safe Kensington constituency.

This was the time when the Conservative party was beginning to divide into "wets" and "dries." He was up against hopefuls who included Leon Brittan and Rhodes Boyson, but the Kensington selectors preferred the Rhys Williams kind of dampness.

He was a European enthusiast. In 1972 he joined the first British delegation to the Strasbourg Parliament, and when it went over to a system of direct elections he decided to stand for it while retaining his Westminster seat; he served as MEP for London South-East from 1979 to 1984.

In Europe his major campaign was for the liberalization of the European market for capital. He was vice-chairman of the Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee.

His many public offices included chairmanship of the National Birthday Trust, founded by his mother to aid research into child health and maternity services. He was vice-president of the London Choral Society.

He had many interests (as well as a home) in South Wales, including presidency of the Welsh Guards Association in East Glamorgan.

He was a valued contributor to *The Times* Letters columns. He is survived by his wife Caroline, a son (who succeeds to the baronetcy) and two daughters.

DR WILLEM DREES

Dr Willem Drees, a moderate Socialist who built up the Netherlands' welfare state after the war, has died at the age of 101. Some observers compared him to Britain's Clement Attlee.

He was Prime Minister from 1948 to 1958. He initiated a social security system with pensions for all over 65. At the same time, he supervised the Dutch nation's return to prosperity, overcoming the effects brought about by five harsh years of German occupation during the Second World War.

Drees was a quiet father-figure during his years in power, who commanded respect from most parts of the political spectrum. Latterly he was at odds with the Dutch Labour Party because he felt it was moving too far to the left.

In office he had to cope with his country's major foreign policy issue after the war as well, waging war in the late 1940s in an attempt to hold on to the Dutch East Indies, the jewel of the Netherlands' empire. But it was Drees who decided empire was a lost cause and ultimately handed

over sovereignty of almost all of the colony to the new Republic of Indonesia in 1949.

Dubbed "police actions" at the time, his government's attempts to keep the colony enjoyed nonetheless strong domestic support, and the final pullout brought him as much condemnation as his social security legislation won him praise.

Before the First World War Drees had been a shorthand writer in the Dutch Parliament. Many years later, he would take shorthand notes at Cabinet meetings of what his colleagues were saying.

During the Second World War he was arrested as a hostage by the Germans. On release, he organized a committee coordinating underground political movements. Immediately after the war he became Minister for Social Affairs.

His international awards included an honorary British C.M.G. His son, also Willem, founded the Dutch Democratic Socialist Party.

He leaves a widow, Paule, who was once his student and is now director of the French Institute in Cairo, and two daughters.

Mr Bernard ("Bunny") Austin, who for 17 years was assistant referee at Wimbledon to captain Mike Gibson, has died, aged 78.

Austin, who came from Ilkley, West Yorkshire, refereed the Yorkshire championships for 25 years. He was also involved in the running of a number of other notable championships throughout the country.



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Anniversaries

Births: Jacob Jordans, painter, Antwerp, 1593; Johann Gottlieb Fichte, philosopher, Bamberg, Germany, 1762; Dame Nellie Melba, Richmond, near Melbourne, Victoria, 1861; Lady Astor, née Nancy Langhorne, first woman to take her seat in Parliament, Danville, Virginia, 1879; Ho Chi-Minh, president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam 1954-69, Kim-lieu, Vietnam, 1890.

Deaths: Alcibiades, scholar, Tours, France, 804; Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII, executed, London, 1536; Charles Montagu, 1st Earl of Halifax, politician and poet, London, 1715; James Boswell, London, 1795; Nathaniel Hawthorne, novelist, Plymouth, New Hampshire, 1864; Jose Martí, poet and Cuban patriot, Dos Rios, Cuba, 1895; William Ewart Gladstone, prime minister 1868-74, 1880-85, 1886, 1894; H.A. Hargreaves, C.W.D., 1898; T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), Cloude Hill, Dorset, 1935; Charles Ives, composer, New York, 1954; Ogden Nash, writer of humorous verse, Baltimore, Maryland, 1971.

Tonga Islands annexed by Britain, 1900.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will attend a reception at St. James's Palace at noon to mark the tenth anniversary of Motability.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, will visit the 1st Battalion at the Dale Barracks, Chester, at 10.30.

The Princess of Wales, Patron of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, will attend a Scottish gala evening at Guildhall, EC2, 7.25.

The Princess Royal will visit Spalding Grammar School, Lincolnshire at 10.50 to mark their fourth centenary; as President of the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society, will attend a council meeting at the Lincolnshire Showground at 1.00; and, as a Fellow of the Royal Society, will attend a Royal Society Dining Club dinner at 6.15.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Patron of the London Orpheus Choir, will attend a gala concert given by the choir at the Albert Hall at 7.25 in aid of ICAN.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open the Britten Centre, Lowestoft, at 10.3

HEALTH

Workers' workouts

Is the company health programme really a healthy idea? Lee Rodwell investigates

On Monday Post Office workers in Moseley, Birmingham, can board the Medibus — and find out how fit they are. The medical team on board will measure height and weight, take blood pressure readings, offer stress checks and health quizzes and encourage people to go on the exercise bike to monitor their overall fitness.

The Medibus is part of an occupational health programme which the Post Office has been running for about five years. The corporation (which employs 15 doctors and 43 nurses to care for the health of its 210,000-strong workforce) also provides a travelling exhibition for the larger offices; it is currently examining the effectiveness of providing stress counselling in the work-place; and it has just announced that it is to begin work-based breast and cervical cancer screening for its female staff.

Dr Richard Welch, head of the Occupational Health and Safety Executive, is convinced that all these measures are of benefit to both employer and employee. "We do pick up things that merit fairly quick intervention — undiagnosed hypertension, the odd case where someone doesn't realize they have asthma," he says. "Also, if you are delivering something at work it is no longer so threatening and you get a better uptake. By offering work-based screening to women, for example, we think we'll get a lot of women who have not yet been involved."

Companies which run work-place health programmes on this scale in Britain are few and far between. Yet in other parts of the world such as Scandinavia, the United States and Japan, company involvement and concern about employees' health is widespread.

In the US, for example, health education comes in booklets, "brown bag" lunchtime lectures, seminars, health fairs and so on. Some companies, such as American Express in New York, which has devoted some 15,000 square feet in its new building to a health and fitness centre, put out a health newsletter. American Express's health programme was set up last year to "help employees live a healthy lifestyle", and includes seminars, subsidized sports facilities and sporting weekends for its 21,000 employees throughout the city. The fitness centre in the American Express Tower, with treadmills, exercise bikes, rowing machines and two kinds of weight-training systems, has 15 full-time staff and was opened in April 1987. Currently it has 2,500 members, ranging from people in their twenties to their sixties, and a waiting list of 1,200. Employees are "absolutely not" pressurized into joining, but those who do pay \$91 (£49) for a year's membership and can use the machines or take classes in aerobics, stretch or body conditioning any time from 6.30am to 8.30pm; the



All in a day's work: American Express employees in New York take some early morning exercise

There is a potentially sinister side to it

peak hour is before work, from 7 to 8am.

So far American companies based in Britain have taken a less aggressive approach than their US counterparts. American Express workers here, for instance, simply have corporate membership at health clubs or belong to the sports and social club.

As for the Japanese, although Komatsu (makers of construction equipment at Birtley, Tyneside) have a daily exercise programme, this is voluntary (unlike in Japan) and the exercises have been modified to suit the English workforce.

Every morning before work, some gentle warm-up routines accompanied by taped music are played over

the PA system and workers from the shop floor to the MD can join in wherever they happen to be. According to the company, there is a 95 per cent take-up, and the process helps foster team spirit as well as improving safety by giving everyone a chance to warm up before starting work.

In America company health programmes make economic sense. When employees are ill, it is at a cost to the company — not simply in terms of absenteeism but through the employer-sponsored private health insurance plans. Health education and promotion programmes are seen as an indirect way of cutting these costs.

However, even in Britain, where

private health insurance is not nearly as universal, there are signs that company health programmes are beginning to take off.

Last year MORI carried out interviews with personnel directors from the largest 500 of *The Times* 1,000 list of British manufacturing companies. Nearly all (98 per cent) had medical insurance schemes and two-thirds said they used external medical practitioners. Two-thirds had no-smoking areas at work. A similar number provided regular health screening — although only a third of these do so for all employees, rather than concentrating on the senior echelons.

About half said they employ part-time medical practitioners, offer

"health foods" in the company's dining areas, provide some kind of sports facilities such as a gym or squash court, subsidize subscriptions to sports clubs or employ a full-time occupational nurse.

David Inglejew, who specializes in health promotion for the Mersey Regional Health Authority, thinks wider measures are likely in the future. "It's partly a cultural thing," he says. "When health and fitness become popular in society at large, it becomes a recruitment perk, especially if there is a shortage of skilled staff — the hi-tech industries, for instance, see it that way."

Some companies are already calling in outside consultants to set up health screening programmes for them — BUPA is already established in this field. Dr Alan Bailey is medical director of the BUPA medical centres and has been developing new techniques for company health assessment.

The "company profile", as BUPA calls it, measures overall company health and provides companies with a coronary risk factor as well as information on a number of health parameters such as blood pressure, cholesterol levels, smoking and indicators of stress. Once the problem areas are identified, advice can be given, behaviour changed and the risks modified.

"One company has introduced a gym after we showed them their employees were not getting much exercise," Bailey says. "We've advised some companies on catering where we found cholesterol levels to be above average. But Britain still lags behind."

How far will employers go? Welch says the Post Office programme is not so much about cost effectiveness as a question of employee care. "It does cost us a fair amount to run — setting up the screening programme will take about £1 million over two years."

"If we can prevent people from having to retire early or having long periods of absenteeism, then we will have helped the business, but it's difficult to prove these kinds of reductions."

Yet if the private health insurance market expands (as the Government has indicated it finds desirable) and companies find themselves increasingly involved in the costs of providing such insurance for their employees and their families, then self-interest may take over from paternalism.

At present employee involvement in health and fitness programmes is voluntary — but will it stay that way? What will happen to those who do not want to stop eating chip butties or drinking double whiskies, or who cannot face the lunchtime aerobic? BUPA stresses that its company profiles are carried out in such a way that individuals cannot be identified and so confidentiality is maintained. But could there come a time when companies running their own programmes decide they want access to medical records in order to make decisions about the future prospects of particular employees?

As Inglejew says: "There is a potentially sinister side to this. If the ideology is becoming that employees should be fit, employers may become less sympathetic to those who are not. And does that mean that the man who is 40 and flabby is not a desirable employee?"

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Skin and bone

Thinning of the skin may herald the start of osteoporosis, the degenerative condition which causes bone loss in the elderly, particularly women. Mr John Studd, a gynaecologist at King's College Hospital, London, drew the attention of the annual meeting of the National Osteoporosis Society to this little known sign, and suggested that this indicates that collagen, as well as calcium, may be lacking from osteoporotic bones. By the time the classic signs and symptoms of osteoporosis have developed — the well-rounded back, the small, frail, easily fractured bones, and the back ache — it is already too late to prevent the condition.

Not everybody is equally likely to develop osteoporosis: those people who belong to a high-risk group should start taking precautionary measures long before middle age and any signs have appeared. Particularly likely to suffer are short, thin women with small bones, who smoke and drink more alcohol and coffee than average, take little exercise, and have had an early menopause and a low calcium diet in childhood.

Hormone replacement therapy offers hope for women in the future, but there are contra-indications. Patients with cardiovascular disease, including high blood pressure and liver disease, should not have hormone replacement therapy, and it is important that anyone having the treatment should take the right mixture of hormones for the correct length of time to avoid uterine complications. Heavy smokers, patients with a raised serum cholesterol, and those who are obese are also advised not to use hormone therapy. The influence of HRT on breast diseases is still uncertain, but it would seem a permissible treatment provided that any woman with nodular breasts has them checked by mammography.

Dual taboo

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund admits that it is confronting two taboos when it publicizes its research work at St Mark's Hospital on the early detection of cancer of the bowel, but it believes the need to tackle a disease which kills 19,000 people a year outweighs the distaste engendered by the discussion of either cancer or the bowels.

The team, led by Mr John Northover, a consultant surgeon, and Dr Joel Kettner, a research fellow, are looking for a method which will be acceptable to patients and yet give warning of the presence of cancer when it is still small enough to be eradicated before it is spread. The clue to the existence of a symptomless cancer of the bowel is hidden bleeding: this is usually the first sign, and occurs long before there is any change in bowel habit, either constipation or diarrhoea, the passing of mucus, loss of weight or even apparent bleeding. When smaller amounts of blood ooze from the cancer into the lumen of the gut they are intimately mixed with the faeces so that the bleeding is not obvious to the naked eye; it can, however, be detected by a chemical reagent, Haemoccult.

As patients have a very marked reluctance to carry out any tests involving faeces, the research workers have had to devise a method of testing which, even if it is not welcomed by patients, is acceptable. They have compared patient compliance when using the existing Haemoccult tests with the results of a large trial using specially impregnated lavatory paper which could be treated later to show the presence of any blood. Their conclusions are now being analysed.

Earlier research has shown

that 10 per cent of people between the ages of 45 and 70 have small amounts of hidden blood in their faeces. Careful examination of these patients with a colonoscope (a flexible illuminated tube which allows the surgeon to look into the bowel) reveals that one in 10 of them has a malignant growth, three have possibly pre-malignant polyps, and the other six have incidental causes such as diverticulitis, piles or fissures. There are about 2 per cent of false positives, and unfortunately some tumours do not reveal themselves by bleeding at the time when the examination is carried out.

High flyers?

At first glance the advice of Tony Patterson, the 46-year-old computer salesman who was recently named *Business Traveller of the Year*, will reassure thousands of people who fly only once a year and who need a stiff drink to overcome their dislike of it. His recipe for enjoying the flight and avoiding jet-lag is to take advantage of the liberal supply of champagne, wine and brandy available on board. Disappointingly, however, science contradicts him: the depressed feelings often associated with jet-lag will be enhanced by a hangover, which will in any case have been exacerbated by the dehydration caused by the plane's dry atmosphere. Because of the reduced atmospheric pressure in the cabin, *flights drinks* may be absorbed even more quickly than usual, so that a glass of whisky and water is to be preferred to champagne. The current dollar exchange rate will persuade many people to fly to America this year for a holiday; a good first night's sleep, if necessary with the help of a sleeping pill, may work wonders for the whole family.

BUPA Heart Risk Assessment. Why add the stress of worrying about your health?

In just one hour, BUPA can dispel any fears you may have about your heart.

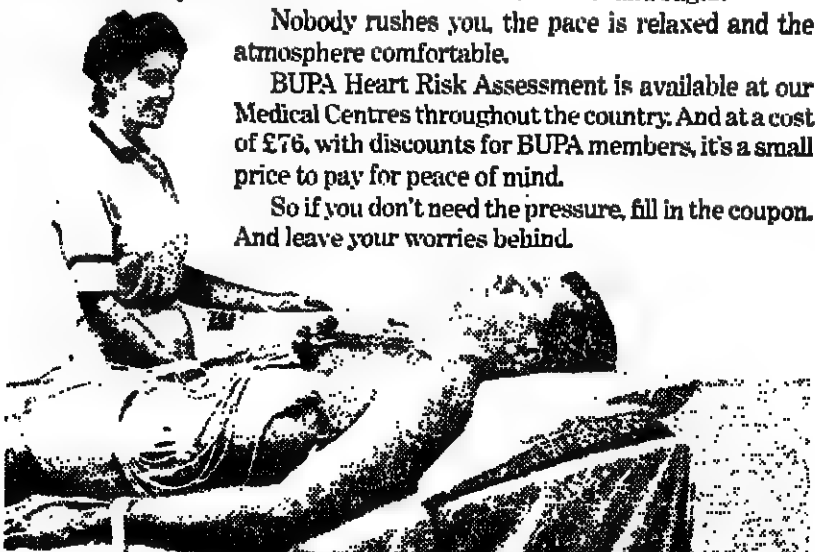
Having looked into your relevant medical history we will conduct a sophisticated assessment which involves testing for blood pressure, heart rate, urine analysis and ECG.

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SECOND OPINION

Dr Erl Annesley

Drug culture

With so many similarities the pharmacist has to be eternally vigilant, especially during busy times and in central city pharmacies, where prescriptions come from a wide area and from many doctors, all with different prescribing habits and varying degrees of legibility.

To add to the confusion, many drugs can be prescribed by two or more different names: when each drug is

The case reported earlier this year, of a patient who suffered permanent brain damage as a result of being given the wrong prescription, highlights a serious problem for doctors and pharmacists. The patient had been given Daonil tablets, a diabetic treatment drug, instead of Amoxil, an antibiotic, because the pharmacist had mis-read the doctor's handwriting.

Mr Justice Auld, who heard the case in the Queen's Bench Division, and awarded £119,302 damages, held that the doctor owed a duty to his patient to write prescriptions clearly. He also held that the writing should be of sufficient legibility to allow for possible mistakes by busy and distracted pharmacists.

A pharmacist in doubt about a dose that is unusual, instructions that are different from normal, or who is asked to prescribe unusual combinations of drugs, has an obligation to check the details with the prescribing doctor. He has the same obligation if there are uncertainties about drugs' names or instructions, due to careless writing. But despite these safeguards, mishaps can still occur, often because of the many drugs which may have different uses, but very similar names.

In the case above, Amoxil was misread as Daonil, but there are many drugs with closer similarities. There is Daonil, for treating diabetes; Danol, for menstrual problems; and De-Nol, for ulcer healing. There is chlorpromide, another diabetic drug, and chlorpromazine, a potent sedative, as well as clomipramine, an anti-depressive; there is co-codamol, co-codaprin, co-proxamol, co-trimoxazole, co-dydramol, co-danthramer, and co-danthrusate, a list which includes pain killers, an antibiotic, and laxatives.

developed, it is marketed under a trade name chosen by the drug company involved. Once the patent runs out, others can then market the drug, but as they cannot use the original trade name, they invent their own. Life would be much simpler for both doctor and pharmacist if each drug had but one name, and if the name chosen was not similar to others already in existence.

Generic names are based roughly on chemical make-up which, while being logical and giving some clue as to the drug's mode of action, also means that confusion between drug "family" names is more likely. Nitrazepam, temazepam, flurazepam, diazepam, medazepam, oxazepam and bromazepam are good examples.

Using trade names only would get round the natural similarities in generic labelling, though not always (De-

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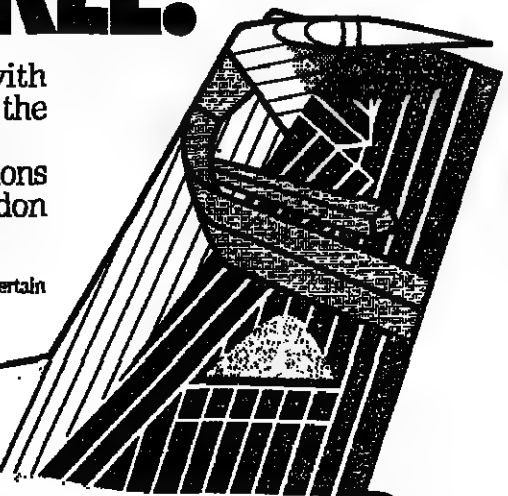
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BOOKS

Murder most foully Frog

Richard Cobb reviews new French history that resurrects voices drowned four centuries in the past

Professor Davis's latest book explores the always interesting borderland between private and public history. One of the leading historians of 16th-century France, she has come up with first-rate source material, mostly from Paris, Lyon, and Geneva, for a series of individual case histories, all of them culminating in murder or homicide, as told in a fairly standardized language, probably dictated by a legal clerk or scribe, in the resonant French of the contemporaries of Rabelais.

Despite a certain stiffness of expression, there is no mistaking the genuineness of the many individual voices that thus reach us over the gap of four centuries. They are voices, however, that though telling a story, are not out to entertain; they speak with purposeful messages, a matter of life or death for the story-teller. The murderer, male or female (most are men, only about 10 per cent of those included in the present selection, concern murderers), is concerned to present himself or herself to the greatest advantage: it all happened so quickly, she, feeling threatened and in imminent danger, took up a knife, he acted on impulse, in hot anger, the victim and he had been drinking.

The narrator, guided by a clerk, throws himself on the royal mercy, making sure to choose the most propitious moment, often after fleeing the scene of the crime the first time, perceiving that the new king is to make his *joyeuse entrée* into a given town: be there ahead of him, kneel before him in humble supplication as he takes the throne in a *parlement* or a high court. The exercise of royal mercy is an area of steady expansion during the reigns of the last Valois and of Henri IV. Many of the stories almost write themselves; it is up to the attentive historian to

FICTION IN THE ARCHIVES
Pardon Tales and their Tellers in Sixteenth-Century France
By Natalie Zemon Davis
Polity Press, £22.50

distinguish between the copybook narrative and what may actually have happened. It is not difficult to read between the lines, nor to distinguish between insults that were little more than formal, and those that were totally unacceptable, especially if proffered in public and heard by many witnesses.

Natalie Zemon Davis is a master hand at this kind of historical interpretation. With a vast experience of archival material from this remarkably talkative century, and with her ears long attuned to the semi-coded messages of popular speech, she is particularly well qualified to distinguish between what is merely a piece of special pleading, and what was the actual course of events leading, in each story, to the same short, sharp, and bloody ending; or sometimes it is a slow, lingering, bloody ending, the victim dying a week or 10 days after the blows or the wounds received at the hands of the narrator. The author suggests convincingly that Catholic practice was more merciful, and that remission was much harder to obtain in Calvin's embattled Geneva. This is archival history as it should be, derived as it is from a long experience of specific types of records and a consequent ability to read both behind and beyond them.

She is not unaware of her own merits in this respect, every now and then butting in, just in case the

reader has missed the point, "chucking and shaking my head", and inviting us to do the same. "So back to the archives," she assures, and, later, "back to 16th-century legal texts and Renaissance novellas". "Why are we hearing only about good stories, readers may be asking rather impatiently", though all this reader is asking is to be left alone, without the guidance of nanny's hand.

At times she weakens her case by attempting to push her material too far in an effort to make some more general point. There may indeed be some significance to the fact that a particular murder took place on a Saint's day. But there are so many Saint's days in the



16th-century Catholic calendar that the convergence may not have had any particular individual significance. In a place like Lyon, with a score of its own indigenous saints in addition to all the other French ones and all the foreign ones, it would have been difficult to have murdered someone *not* on a Saint's day.

In a period of bitter religious wars, it is perhaps self-evident that the murder of a Catholic by a Protestant, or of a Protestant by a Catholic, would often have happened just after some important religious procession or outing involving large crowds of the one denomination or the other.

There are the chances of topography. In Lyon, for instance, the Protestants were thick on the ground in the quartier Saint-Jean, near the Cathedral. Such murders are not necessarily "ritualistic". And, in any century, people dislike having their hats knocked off. I don't think there is any anti-seigneurial symbolism in such a

common gesture of insult or fun. Her vocabulary is sometimes impenetrable: "synecdoche", "spectrum of affect", "gender-specific preference", "homotext", "a current belief-system" (where is the switch?). And here we are back again with "arena", but this time it is not the bed. "It turns out that making meals was a major arena for obedience struggles in 16th-century marriage."

The signal this time is to women's history, a powerful lobby in American universities. Perhaps both the Flags of Recognition and the rather Germanic hyphenated vocabulary are just formal genuflections to current modes in social history. Once the author has got through her prayers, displayed her signals, and trotted out her testimonials, she lets her story-tellers get on with their tales; and most of these are very good indeed, and wonderfully readable, especially in that succinct French. We must be grateful to Professor Davis for having brought them so vividly to life.

Growing up real pains

FICTION

Martin Cropper

COMING TO TERMS

By Robert Montagu

Quartet, £11.95

BLOODFATHER

By David Ireland

Hamish Hamilton, £12.95

MOONRISE

By Tadeusz Konwicki

Translated by Richard Lourie

Faber, £11.95

THE QUEUE

By Vladimir Sorokin

Translated by Sally Laird

Readers International, £9.95

At 17, Joe is about as much of a mess as he can be without disintegrating. On the lam from boarding school, he runs into a choral of familial disapproval orchestrated by his alcoholic actress of a mother. A queasy meeting with his estranged father, poolside at the RAC Club, ends in a flapping retreat from his father's homosexual lover. Psychoanalysis leads him to wonder to which sex he will eventually lose his virginity.

If *The Rachel Papers* and *The Catcher in the Rye* had never been published (or, say, *The Graduate* filmed), Joe's tortured vicissitudes might well have struck a chord rather than a fairly hollow hum. The mechanics of cramming, courting, drug-taking, and soul-searching are diligently worked in, but they could have come from any of the last three decades. In this field excitement can stem only from a unique voice. Joe's testimony bristles with convincingly laboured similes and misapprehensions which never amount to more than breezy gaucherie. A fan of *Alice*, he nonetheless mistakes the hookah-smoking caterpillar for a centipede: the fussy shrink who treats him is therefore likened to that beast throughout the book. More alarmingly, this principle extends beyond the text, twice crediting the jacket illustration to Elizabeth (sic) Frink.

Coming to Terms at least has the virtue of concision. *Bloodfather* is an unedited sprawl — after 563 pages its hero is a ripe 15 — which keeps veering into verse. Dedicated to "the liberation of God", it claims to be the youthful biography of a preternaturally acute son of Australian Dissenting Folk. Davis Blood's greatest influence is a pair of gruesomely skittish linguomane aunts who lavish riddling nonsense poems on his infant head. Growing up to test his received idea of God against the fecund possibilities of language, he becomes something of a poet.

The salient characteristic attributed to young Blood is perceptiveness. How odd that the author himself seems not to have noticed that his creature is a bore and a prig, whose teenage adventures in reading equip him at the close to entitle his projected life story *Portrait of a Young Artist*. "David Ireland writes as though James Joyce were an Australian" is the

flap's brave stab at a compliment. The most remarkable aspect of this precious endeavour is that it was not conceived by an American female with three names.

Moonrise, *Moonset* cannibalizes an unpublished novel that Tadeusz Konwicki wrote in the late 1940s, treating his wartime experience in the Polish partisans, the coming of the Red Army, and the Russification of his native land. One cannot quibble with this ambition — the story is historically informative and not without literary merit — but since more than half of the present work consists of "the unfortunate Mr Konwicki" agonizing over his career, his writer's block, the status of his rivals, and the doubtless unenviable problem of trying to express oneself in a country where everyday life is an insult to the brain, this is not so much a novel as a prolix contemplation of his navel.

The Queue dispenses entirely with authorial interpolation; indeed, it dispenses with everything except dialogue, mostly curt one-liners, as though transcribed direct from a radio play. The uncredited voices are queuing outside a clothes shop in summer. Party parajandrons barge in front to the accompaniment of quickly muted protests; vodka circulates; the Moscow sun declines; romance germinates. Anti-Soviet elements will perhaps coo over Vladimir Sorokin's happy mining of elemental optimism from an unlikely seam; more pertinent to our purposes this book, alone of the quartet, displays genuine zest.

NEW BOOKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

A History of West Indies Cricket, by Michael Manley (André Deutsch, £17.95) Windies Test and international cricket since 1906 by former PM of Jamaica, present Leader of the Opposition, introduction by Clive Lloyd.

I, Of All People, by James Kirkup (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.95) Third vol. of autobiography by clever, sensitive George boy made proper improper poet and libretto, friend of Ackerly, Forster, et al.

Philip Larkin 1922-1985, edited by George Hartley (The Marvell Press, £16.95) Assorted and eclectic tributes and verse, the best by Larkin.

Pigeon Holes of Memory, edited by Christina Byam Shaw (Coronet, £2.20) Memoirs of Dr John Mackenzie (1803-1886), a patriot's account of crofters and Highlands during the Hungry Forties of 19th century.

The French Pyrenees, by John Sturrock (Faber, £12.95) From Hendaye to Cerbere with a clever and elegant unobtrusive guide.

The Grand Obsession, edited by Rupert Christiansen (Collins, £16) Anthology of eclectic writings about opera, the inexplicable art.

The Joy of Bad Verse, by Nicholas T. Parsons (Collins, £10.95) *The Stuffed Owl* flaps its wings again, from Whurr to McGonagall, with much linking chat, not enough recent bad verse, of which there is plenty.

The Military Revolution, by Geoffrey Parker (Cambridge, £15) Warfare innovation and the rise of the West 1500-1800, sound text and pictures.

The Prado, by Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez et al. (Scala, £19.95) The director and his assistants on greatest gallery: pictures lovely, text thin.

Those Lambton, by John Colville (Hodder & Stoughton, £12.95) Sir John's last amiable ramble around the odd, tressome, dodgy family.

Piping songs of pleasant glee

I consider it a pity that the useful word *gleeman* is now, as the Oxford English Dictionary tells us, *obs. exc. Hist.* In earlier days, the gleemen (*L. del ioculatorum*) were the professional entertainers at social gatherings, in other words, the singers, musicians, minstrels, or bards who amused a given audience. They had to be witty if not wise, verbally adroit if not truthful. They were high-class purveyors of intellectual entertainment. It is, as I say, a pity that the name for such chaps is obsolete when their trade is not.

Norman MacCaig is a gleeman of the greatest dexterity, and the 57 new pieces in this, his 16th volume, will not dismay or disappoint his admirers. MacCaig's strong suit is the literary-philosophical description of landscape, done so charmingly that it almost takes on the air of poetry, if never quite its grace. In "Mountain Streamlet", for example, he starts with a blurted *thin splash of water*, fancifully decorates this with red eyes and gold grains, goes glancing sideways for a reference to Ophiuchus and Ophielia, then comes reassuringly smack back to reality by declaring that those red eyes are in fact pebbles, and those gold grains presumably thoughts in my

mind, enriching me. To conclude he remarks that if he could wrap up his stream's little music and take it with him to his city room he would listen to it, and if he were Wordsworth he would write something called "Innocence and Independence".

Now all this is so richly comforting to the reader that he might well be forgiven for failing to note that what he has read is not so much a poem as an excuse for not having tried to write a poem. Wordsworth never wrote anything called "Innocence and Independence", neither can MacCaig. To be sure, there are more straightforward and attractive games with language here, though to my mind even the best of them are disfigured by a touch of the Walt Disney (e.g. *Kamikaze swifts dive-bomb the rooftops*). While the level of observation is high, this writer's attempts to tease Deep (if playful) Meaning from what he sees serve only to splinter his verse into fragments of solipsistic philosophy. To be frank, I think MacCaig's reliance on a fireworks of free verse makes it all too easy for him to provide an entertaining general illusion of poetry, rather than individual poems that will burn as it were with a steady light.

POETRY

Robert Nye

VOICE-OVER



By Norman MacCaig
Chato & Windus, £5.95

their technique in the service of the process of illumination. Still, as gleemen go, he is a modern master.

William Scammell is the author of an excellent critical study of Keith Douglas. His own poems, on the evidence collected in *Eldorado* (Penguin Poets, £4.50), have something of Douglas about them in their endeavour to make a

sort of tough but tender skin of language to hold the muscle and bone of some perceived meaning. But the trouble is that too often there is a sense that this meaning has possessed the poet from the start, and was not discovered in the course of writing, and so is not truly enacted here in the words on the page. An exception can be made of "To a Pink Dress" (after Gautier's *A simple robe rose*), which is quite simply delicious:

*How I like you in that dress
which half-undresses you so well,
baring your pagan arms' soft
zeal,*

lalsing with your nakedness.

Some of the other pieces in which Scammell uses regular rhyme and not too irregular measure to comb his thoughts and feelings (e.g. "Death of a Bird") suggest that with a lot of good luck and a bit of ill fortune this accomplished and resourceful young gleeman might yet turn into a poet.

I thought that Carol Ann Duffy was already set fair in that harder profession, but her second book *Selling Manhattan* (André Press, £4.95) comes as a disappointment, or is it just that I have less appetite for her clever dramatic monologues than for those love poems

in which she seemed to speak in a voice of her own? There are precious few of the latter in the new collection, but several brilliant exercises in the other vein, most notably "Money Talks" in which she personifies cash and makes it speak for itself:

*I am the authentic language of
suffering. My cold, gold eye
does not blink. Mister, you want
nice time? No problem.*

Only a real poet could muster up the imagination to make this work, but is the effort worth it? Browning used the dramatic monologue to say things which in his age he found he could not say in his own voice. Duffy uses it, I fear, for more evasive and ambitious reasons. It is more lucrative to be a gleewoman than a poet. It is of course more sensible to be a gleeman or gleewoman rather than a poet (gleeplayers get most of the rewards and prizes, which is only right when they do the singing for other people's suppers). Yet I confess to hoping that Duffy might soon regret her recourse to ventriloquial wit in the place of personal inspiration, and return to writing those love poems that made *Standing Female Nude* an outstanding first book.

Swede reels

John Russell Taylor

THE MAGIC LANTERN

An Autobiography

By Ingmar Bergman

Translated by Joan Tate

Hamish Hamilton, £14.95

The lady in *One Way Pendulum* kept a skull on the mantelpiece as a *memento mori*, except that she kept forgetting. Ingmar Bergman never seems to have achieved such happy absent-mindedness. Ever since he was shut in a mortuary at the age of 10 (decidedly worse than Hitchcock's being shut in a police cell at the age of six), the spectre has always been by his side, nudging him to remember that the one thing certain in life is death. But arguably any certainty is better than none, and this particular certainty seems to give Bergman a quiet confidence that is sometimes almost jaunty. His autobiography is emphatically not depressing.

Even when he tells us tales of his actors at the end of their lives and their tethers, the account is more triumphant than gloomy. The effect is very similar to watching the extraordinary sequence in the *Fanny and Alexander* documentary where Gunnar Björnstrand, dying, fights his way somehow through Feste's song about the Wind and the Rain: with anyone else but Bergman one would suspect a latent sadism, but with him it seems to be simply a recognition that life is full of extreme situations, and the end game is the only one worth playing out, for others as for himself.

In the course of his apparently meandering and wayward narrative, jumping forward and backward in time to follow up an association, Bergman does contrive to tell us a surprising amount

about himself and what, in his inner history, would lead him to feel that way. The childhood seems to have been horrifying, not with the tangible horrors he fantasized in *Fanny and Alexander* (despite the mortuary episode), but with the creeping chill of his pastor-father's strict puritanical standards and the constant threat of parental disapproval, demonstrated by a consistent "freezing out". No wonder the child found escape in an invented world of nursery dramas and magic lanterns — even though the magic lanterns in his films generally seem to feature (they too) dances of death.

All the same, Bergman would probably agree with Orson Welles that the cinema is "the best goddammed box of toys any boy was ever given". Through playing with film he seems to have been able to work out most of his agonies and express most of his ecstasies. If he sometimes seems cruel, he is unrepentant whether driven by a demon or a demon, he has always been totally obsessed with his work. And when the results are so mighty, who are we to argue?

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THE ARTS 1

TELEVISION

Russian appeal

While our greatest champion against violence since Joe Bugner, Sir William Rees-Mogg, prepares to sit down, Canute-like, to defend us from waves of nasty (and naughty) bits from across the Atlantic, our television screens, thanks to perestroika, are increasingly filled with compelling images of the Soviet Union.

Let's be honest. Big Brother rather than just another quango kid, Sir William should not modestly propose to turn his attention from toutsilectomies of *Deep Throats* to emasculating fascinat-ing, highly enjoyable programmes such as *Antenna in the USSR* (BBC2). He should be warned, however, that if he forces us to view Americans without sex and violence, he is handing a propaganda victory to the Soviets.

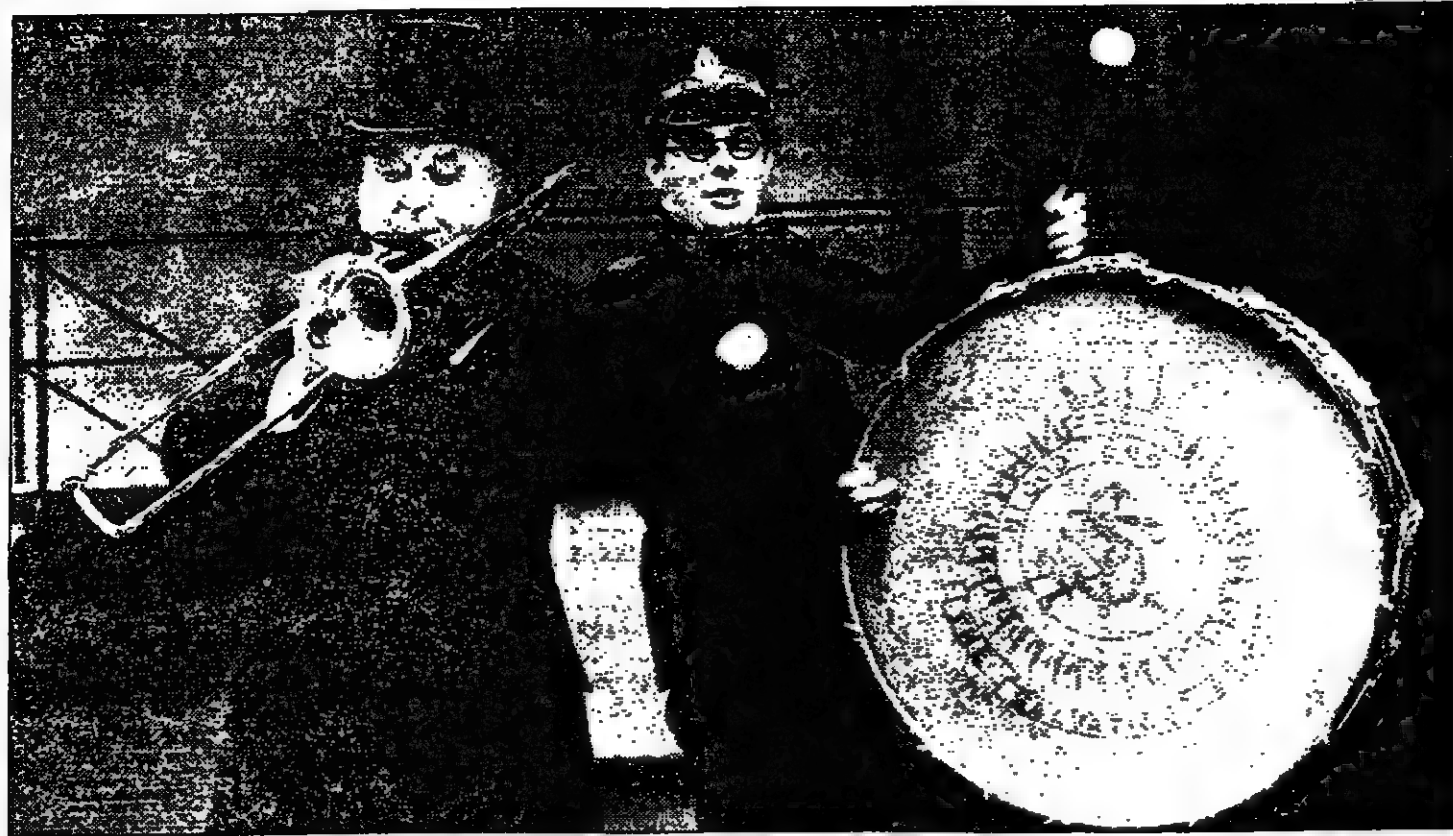
For, as *Antenna* and last night's episode of the masterful series *An Ocean Apart* (BBC1) confirmed, when it comes to talking heads, rather than shooting them or doing more unmentionable things with them, the Soviets can out-perform Americans with ease — especially when they are brilliant scientists and not the dedicated bureaucrats of *An Ocean Apart*, remembering how reluctant they were to bail out Britain after the war.

Of course, language was an important factor. The Soviets spoke in a more attractive accent an English which was richer, less jargon-free — if not always so grammatical.

The programme began with a new member of the Patrick Moore school of amateur but turned sartorially comic space expert, Phillip Clark, who was in his element as he enthused about the collection of Heath Robinson machinery which he insisted was used in the Soviet space programme — and not as camouflage for the real hi-tech gadgetry.

Then followed an intriguing portrait of the great Soviet scientist and protégé of Rutherford, Peter Kapitza. There were plenty of enjoyable anecdotes but also some unease about the portrait. Kapitza saved some scientists from Stalin's purges and himself was exiled, but he also topped with the Devil in the shape of Stalin himself, even if he was more at home with the gastronomic murder of a Cambridge high table.

Andrew Hislop



Bones to the fore: Donald Sinden (left) as Major Undershaft and Paul Shelley as Cusins, leading their Salvation Army band at Chichester

Securely Shavian

THEATRE

Major Barbara Chichester

Working when casts were cheaper Shaw felt no uneasiness about writing plays for a dozen or more actors, nor in changing the scene with every act. There is no easy way to economize on his sets. In a century or two it may be possible to try them in modern dress or placed in abstract settings, but we are still too close to the social wrongs Shaw hoped to right, and the particular rights he had in mind, to imagine them played out of their period. Significantly, the only attempt along these lines was a nursery version of *Caesar and Cleopatra*, a play set 2,000 years away from his own time.

Counting the non-speaking Salvationists that troop onto the stage with cornets and tuba, this muscular play has a cast of twenty. As for the sets, two of the acts take place in Lady Britomart's library, a third in the Salvation Army shelter run by her daughter Barbara, and the last in a corner of the

high explosive sheds near the model town built by Lady Brit's husband, the millionaire armaments manufacturer.

As our major subsidized companies evince little sustained interest in the plays of our greatest dramatist since Shakespeare, they are left to commercial managements. Somewhere on the Fringe there is always a production of *Village Wooing*, because it has a cast of only two. For the major works Chichester is an almost ideal theatre, and it would be a fine notion if one was included in the repertoire each season, much as John Clements provided an annual Anouilh.

There is not a Shaw play that is not worth reviving. He speaks sense much of the time, writes splendid parts for his principals and gives a touch of individuality even to those whose function is but to announce visitors. Lady Brit's perfect servant has his moment. GBS was also a dab hand at one-liners, neatly phrased ripostes that in this production (by Christopher Morahan) come across with enjoyable freshness and vigour.

Morahan avoids any temptation to fuss up those passages

where the play becomes a think-piece. Whenever Undershaft the armourer, or Barbara the saviour of souls, or Cusins the professor of Greek start to tell us what goes on inside their odd heads, the other members of the family have arranged themselves into a pleasing tableau of more or less attentive figures.

Donald Sinden gives Undershaft an easy assurance, crisp timing for his one-liners and a gruff bark of laughter; the roll of his tongue that turns Parli-a-ment into a four syllable word allows

him to relish the sound while firmly ridiculing the subject.

Anna Carteret is a gutsy little adversary, and Paul Shelley, whose voice gets nice and throbby when roused, catches the watchful, thoughtful boniness of Cusins. There is an amusing performance by Donald Sinden's son Marc as Undershaft's bemused son Stephen. As always at this theatre, watching nimble stagehands change the scenery (sets by Gerard Howland) is a pleasure in itself.

Jeremy Kingston

Greatness glimpsed

Stars in the Morning Sky New Athenaeum Theatre, Glasgow

Those who know about these things say that *Stars in the Morning Sky*, a play by Alexander Galin which the Maly Theatre of Leningrad have brought to Mayfest, is *glorious* in action, that its production would have been inconceivable when it was first written four years ago. Whatever its political significance, its achievement as a piece of theatre is shattering.

Here are four hookers tarred out of central Moscow so as not to tarnish the showpiece of the Soviet system that is the 1980 Moscow Olympics. Ironically the miserable derelict barracks where they are billeted lies on the road along which the athlete bearing the Olympic torch is to pass. Each one of the women, in their different ways, is reduced by events before us to the measure of creatures.

But the runner with the Olympic torch is expected at any moment. The women want to share in the festive spirit accompanying the great event but their wretchedness refuses to let them outside to watch. The enduring image for me of this magnificent production is of

the waitress, the very apparatus of State control, looking on in disbelief, totally powerless to prevent the will and spirit still ticking inside these four wretched souls from expressing itself in celebration of the great festival.

They climb out onto the roof, firing off the sparkling wine like grand prix winners, chanting and cheering to the strains of rousing music, as the torch goes by. Of course it is but the briefest moment of joy. The music suddenly dies, the torch has moved on and they must return to their rotten little lives.

But in that moment we have glimpsed the great truth of this at times brutal, even harrowing, but fine, fine play. A Moscow magazine has described it as reminding Russians, "the heirs of Dostoevsky", that the lowest depths of morality and the lowest depths of society are two different and often diametrically opposed things; and I can add nothing more.

The occasional performances of the four leading actresses set new standards of commitment and bravura. The staging, by the Maly's artistic director Lev Dodin, is faultless. To say that the whole thing simply takes your breath away is, for once, no mere figure of speech.

Robert Dawson Scott

Judy Clifford interviews Tim Pigott-Smith, who plays leading roles in all three of the late Shakespeare plays directed by Sir Peter Hall and opening at the Cottesloe this week

One in three

Sir Peter Hall has chosen *Cymbeline*, *The Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest* as his final productions at the National. The plays open consecutively at the Cottesloe this weekend and are part of End Games, an arts festival celebrating late work, on the South Bank until June.

Over the last 18 months, Tim Pigott-Smith has given some outstanding performances with the National and will again have a chance to show his versatility as Iachimo, the villain in *Cymbeline*, Leontes, the king consumed by jealousy in *The Winter's Tale* and the jester Trinculo in *The Tempest*. Rehearsals have been in progress since December.

The physical and mental strain has been considerable — he was in *Antony and Cleopatra* and *Entertaining Strangers* at night and took time out to direct Beckett's *Company* at the Donmar Warehouse. Sometimes he was putting in a 17-hour day.

His infectious enthusiasm and trenchant knowledge of all three plays is undiminished by fatigue. Iachimo in *Cymbeline* he regards as a second rate villain. "As villains go he's not top drawer," he says. "He tries to get the bird and fails — all he can do is get himself into a trunk."

"It's outrageous, very witty and good fun. At the same time, what he does to Posthumus is sadistic — I'm sure people will say 'Oh God, he's playing Captain Merrick'. After four years his sinister interpretation of that part in *The Jewel in the Crown* still haunts him."

He has a hunch that Shakespeare wrote Leontes for one of his favourite actors Richard Burbage, partly because of the latter's skill at portraying "red-hot jealousy and passion." Pigott-Smith's own view is that the king becomes temporarily mad.

Leontes says "I have tremor cordis on me." It seems that the symptoms of tremor cordis are difficult to trace — though to a contemporary audience tremor cordis would have had as vivid a meaning as saying someone has Aids today.

"I think what Shakespeare does in *The Winter's Tale* is to use sexual jealousy as a spring board to examine tyranny. The play is actually about what happens to a world where the man at the top is unhinged."

The role of Trinculo is perhaps the most unusual piece of casting and he confesses that although it is a fun part it is the one he has found the most difficult. "Shakespeare puts a jester on a beach, then deprives him of everything that he would normally have as props. In the second scene he's drunk and in the third he's covered in filth!"

Earlier in his career Pigott-Smith would do a great deal of research before a production began, but no longer feels a need to do so. "What I do now, partly guided by Peter, is cling like a leech to the First Folio, mainly because you come across so much editorial gunk since then. The more you read editorial notes the more confused you become."

Generally when you are working with this kind of company over this length of time the ideas

that emerge from rehearsal are the most valid. I didn't start reading anything external until well into the rehearsal period, in this case not till March.

Although he never made a conscious decision to become an actor, the seeds must have been sown when he came to live in Stratford at the age of 16, on his father's appointment as editor of the local paper. His last two years at school coincided with Peter Hall's greatest days at Stratford, culminating in *The Wars of the Roses*.

After a degree from Bristol, which he followed with a drama course at the Bristol Old Vic, he worked for several years in rep. He ended up — with a three-year contract with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Then for some time he left the theatre to concentrate on television and played many notable



Enthusiast Tim Pigott-Smith

parts, but it was as Captain Merrick that he found fame and recognition.

A long location period for *The Jewel in the Crown* left him with an abiding fascination with India. On his return to England he continued to read about the country. He discovered a long-forgotten autobiography, Yeats-Brown's *Bengal Lancer*, which he commissioned to be turned into a one-man show, in which he played 16 different parts.

The Indian connection continued with the publication, last year, of his book *Out of India*, containing the stories he kept while on location with a selection from the country's literature.

Now he would like to write another book, but on a completely different subject. Pigott-Smith believes that irreparable damage has been done to our society by our concentration on the "image" at the expense of the written word.

"There are a lot of actors alive today who remember a time when all you did was work with words, a tradition which goes back to Shakespeare's time. I want to put something down on paper about these men before they die, about the world, a world in which Gielgud was trained and was allowed to play Lear at 24. You don't have these opportunities now — you're too young at 24 and at 60 you're too bloody old!"

Irving Wardle reviews *The Winter's Tale* on the Arts page tomorrow.

Freshness and daring on show

RPO/Masur Festival Hall

CONCERT

Kurt Masur is a conductor who, one feels, will never tire of Beethoven. That he still sees even a work as popular as the "Pastoral" Symphony, for instance, in the freshest shades of green, was obvious in the reading he gave at the end of this concert with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Clearly these players also have great respect for him, for the evening found them at their most responsive.

It may well have been that the lucidity of Masur's account was

helped by the edition he used — the latest available, newly edited by Peter Hauschild. Whatever the reason, individual colours were brought out with unusual distinctiveness for a performance not using period style instruments, albeit within the context of a solid, warmly blended general texture. Tempos were auspiciously well chosen, and together with Masur's graceful phrasing ensured an easy flow to the work, though the more dramatic moments were done with a boiling vividness.

Before the symphony, the Beaux

Arts Trio joined the RPO for one of those still fairly infrequent airings of Beethoven's Triple Concerto (coincidentally the piece receives another performance in London tonight). This was a dynamic reading, scornful of consideration of mere technical safety and hence liable to the odd mis-timing and forced timbre. But that is an acceptable trade-off in most circumstances, and it was also to the concertos distinct advantage that these vastly experienced soloists played as individuals, albeit gifted with unusual powers of empathy, rather than as a homogeneous chamber group.

Stephen Pettitt

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Sophisticated astringency

Mose Allison Pizza On The Park, London

Three decades after the release of the *Back Country Suite*, Mose Allison seems to be enjoying a renewed surge in popularity. Away from the recording studios for five years, he made a comeback in 1987 on the Blue Note label with *Ever Since The World Ended*.

With his Mississippi accent and bluesy style, Allison has often been the subject of well-meaning but rather condescending praise. To describe him as some sort of piano-playing redneck or "unreconstructed country boy" scarcely does justice to the sophistication of his lyrics, or a piano style which blends the Delta blues tradition with the astringency of a Lennie Tristano.

JAZZ

There was an opportunity to savour the breadth of his keyboard technique on the instrumental numbers which opened his first set. Crammed with unexpected dissonances and thundering octaves, the pieces were more robust and complex than anything on the new album.

The bassist Spike Heatley and drummer Mark Taylor provided discreet support as Allison dusted off some of the older items from his repertoire, including the swaggering Ellington-Don George hit "I Ain't Got Nothing But The

Blues". The influence of Nat King Cole's 1940s trio show through on "Meet Me At No Special Place". There was a more sombre quality to Allison's own compositions, including the melancholy "How Much Truth Can A Man Stand". And he could not resist another stab at his lugubrious version of "You Are My Sunshine", reminding us that it was written by a fellow-southerner of Louisiana. In the hands of a lesser artist, it might have been a perverse choice. Allison made it sound absolutely natural. He continues in residence until May 28.

Clive Davis

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THE ARTS 2

Ugly reality of death

CANNES
FILM
FESTIVAL

Easily the most powerful film of the competition so far is Krzysztof Kieslowski's *Three Colours: Red*. It is a film about killing, but it will probably use the French title *Trois Couleurs: Rouge*. Known in Great Britain for *Camera Buff* and his last film *No End*, which caused the Polish authorities collective heartburn and took some time to achieve distribution, Kieslowski has never been one to pull his punches.

His new film opens with three separate characters going about their daily business: a taxi driver, a student and a newly graduated lawyer. The simple connection between them is soon established.

The youth kills the taxi driver, for no obvious reason other than a vague Camus-like alienation. With a startling conclusion, the film ignores his arrest and trial and cuts straight to his hanging, with the lawyer in attendance.

This might seem to be short-changing the audience on subject matter, but Kieslowski stares unblinkingly at the details of how to murder someone and then how to hang the murderer. The taxi



driver's neck is too fat, and so the boy's garotte takes some five minutes to render him comatose. He then needs to beat his head in with a rock.

This proved too much for an audience accustomed to seeing victims in western films cleanly blown away, and there was a high walkout rate, to cries of "disgusting". The hanging is dwelt upon in even gristlier detail, with Kieslowski sparing us nothing of the practical details (noose height,

excretion etc) and the personal humiliation.

The obvious point being made is that judicial killing is more disgusting than murder. There is, however, the wider implication, to judge by the audience reaction, which is that mankind cannot bear too much reality. The whole thing is shot in a bilious green-yellow, with the edges of the frame clouding to darkness.

Gary Sini's *Miles From Home* is a surprisingly late addition to a small spate of films which appeared some three years ago, such as *Country*, which dealt with the fate of the small US farmers of the mid-West as Reaganite economics began to bite. This has Richard Gere (in rather less narcissistic form than usual) and Kevin Anderson, as two brothers who inherit the most successful farm in Iowa from their father, whom Krushchev had visited on his US tour in the Fifties.

When the farm is foreclosed they torch it rather than see it bought by strangers, and achieve considerable popular support when they go on the run.

It is a conventional film, with the only surprising aspect being that it lays most of the blame for the farm's failure, not on the economic conditions, but on Richard Gere's personal shortcomings.

Chris Peachment

Geoff Brown on Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep as a pair of Depression-era derelicts

Downhill roller

CINEMA

Ironweed (15)
Odeon Haymarket

Swan Song
ICA Cinema

Ivan's Childhood (PG)
Renoir

After the credits, *Ironweed* launches its tale with a lingering shot of a dark, grimy wall in Albany, New York State, one cold October night in 1938. Leaves and debris scuttle by in the bitter wind, down by the pavement, a shape lies covered in newspaper.

Instinctively, we know the shape must be Jack Nicholson — and out he soon crawls, leering and dirty. Instinctively, too, we know that *Ironweed* will remain plunged in gloom through its running time, and think itself art for doing so.

It is not this version of William Kennedy's acclaimed novel quickly becomes bogged down in self-conscious posturing, and the story of Francis Phelan, the drunken hobo stumbling in search of redemption never takes flight.

The construction of the script (by Kennedy himself) is partly to blame, for the characters have nowhere to go but roll downhill. A few scenes establish Francis as an old soak haunted by ghosts from his past — especially the baby son he accidentally killed. Francis finds a few odd jobs, staggers around the soup kitchens, and eventually makes contact with the family he abandoned 22 years before; but his true family now are the Depression flotsam and jetsam who haunt the Albany waste land.

He also has a female companion, Helen — a once-refined lady whose musical aspirations were nipped in the bud by poverty. Enter Meryl Streep, with reddened eyes and nose, a bedraggled cloche hat, a pinched voice, and bad teeth.

Streep's performance is noticeable rather than notable; she always displays the building



Dirty, leering rascal: even Jack Nicholson is unable to raise the pace of Hector Babenco's *Ironweed*

blocks used to construct her role (the puckering of the mouth, for instance). Nicholson is far more at home with the rascal character of Francis, though even his personality's whirlwind force fails to breathe life into the script's more tedious scenes (like the family visit, where Francis receives a crash course in the conventional pleasures of hearth and home).

The director is the Argentinian Hector Babenco, best known for the sleekly outrageous *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and his brutal study of Brazil's child criminals, *Pivete*. Perhaps *Ironweed* marks a misguided bid for respectability: he certainly directs with a ponderous, reverential pace, pushing the characters further and further away from the audience's grasp.

Swan Song, an impressive Chinese film about a folk composer of Canton, bears two superficial similarities with the Hollywood biopic of the *Song to Remember* school: the composer suffers a great deal, and everything ends in a ghastly piano concerto. But the character's torments are no bread-and-butter pangs of the heart. Zhang Zeming, the young direc-

tor, uses his imaginary hero for a quietly lethal critique of the country's shifting political policies and the artist's abiding need to create.

In the New China of the 1950s, an opium habit destroys the hero's career and splinters his family; by the time of the "Cultural Revolution" his music is deemed old-hat and ideologically barren. In the late '70s, after the composer's death, the musical culture is Westernized: the ghostly concerto, played by his estranged daughter at her graduation concert, uses one of his own themes, bloated beyond belief with pianistic fireworks and symphonic accompaniment.

For the first feature of a young director working in difficult conditions, *Swan Song* is astonishingly assured. Zhang Zeming displays an enviable knack for placing his characters in their social landscape — from the teeming back-alley where singing vendors sell jellied bean curd and urchins urinate, to the jumbled flat of the composer's son, whose decoration mixes Marlboro cigarette adverts with his father's old manuscripts (now used for wallpaper). Not the least attraction of

this beguiling film is the plaintive Cantonese music itself.

Film students should take themselves off with notepad and pen to the revival of *Ivan's Childhood* — Andrei Tarkovsky's first feature, which won the top prize at the 1962 Venice film festival and first put the director on the map. Ivan is a 12-year-old whose childhood is all in the past, glimpsed in dreams: since the Nazi invasion of Russia, the sturdy blond mite works as a partisan, heroically infiltrating enemy lines.

Stylistically, the film is a jumble, half-choked with official Soviet stodge, puppet characters, and a needless romantic sub-plot — Tarkovsky, then a bright graduate from the Moscow film school, took over the project from another director. But you can at least see the mature Tarkovsky struggling to emerge.

There is much strenuous play with nature and the elements, and the eerie landscapes of marshes, debris and upturned planes carry a magical charge. The film is supported by *Karin's Face*, a delightful Ingmar Bergman short from 1981, which salutes his late mother through an eloquent perusal of family photographs.

At home and abroad

Peter Grimes
Teatro Comunale,
Florence

Covent Garden took *La Scala* by storm when it imported *Peter Grimes* on its 1976 visit, and the production is still discussed here in tones of ecstasy. Far from inspiring Italian companies to tackle the opera in English, however — there had previously been a few versions in Italian — the very quality of those performances seems to have discouraged them from trying to compete in any language. Florence has taken the challenge by opening the *Maggio Musicale* with a surtitled *Grimes*.

Jacques Trussell is a good actor with an unremarkable voice and stage presence. His *Grimes* is a very ordinary man with an excitable nature, few social graces, and a big streak of bad luck. The visionary side of the character is largely missing. Only after he is out of his mind does he become really eloquent.

Tension was also notably missing from Spiros Argiris' conducting in the early scenes. Argiris gradually tightened his grip to deliver a taut last act, for which

Peter Grimes
Covent Garden

The absence through illness of Jon Vickers, until four performances early next month, brings some notable compensation in the chance to hear Jacques Trussell as *Grimes*, fresh from his appearances in Florence. (Nigel Jamieson reports on those above.) Or perhaps he is not quite so fresh as all that: there were signs of strain on Tuesday night, particularly in the big solo scene at the end of the second act.

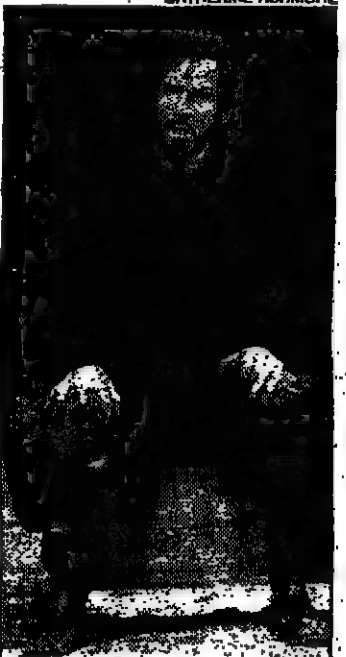
But still this was a strong and distinctive interpretation. Trussell finds the restless strength of the man in a tone of cold, hard steel; the words shine out as if newly cut from metal. In his movements he is angular and rushed, at odds with the world and not really looking for any kind of engagement: his "I'll marry Ellen" is a quick mechanical refrain, a sort of motto in which he no longer believes, but

OPERA

the Maggio Orchestra's playing acquired the impetus that had often eluded it earlier.

The gem of the performance was the young American Pamela Coburn, who portrayed Ellen Orford's mixture of schoolhouse ways and burning compassion to perfection, her pure soprano tightly controlled by warmly inflected Thomas Stewart's shrewd.

CATHERINE ASHMORE



Strong and distinctive: Jacques Trussell at Covent Garden

which he keeps repeating in an effort to still his mind.

The longing and the visions both give place to an untiring, senseless demonic possession, and this *Grimes* produces his most free, lyrical and varied singing in the third act, when the game is up.

There is also an unusual and effective Ellen Orford, as might be expected, from Josephine Barstow. The white plangency in her voice, the readiness with which she suggests incipient hysteria, gives us an Ellen with barely more self-possession than *Grimes*.

When she holds out the hope of future security to the apprentice, "Every day I pray it may be so"

joyful Balstrode was short of voice and resorted at times to a near-parlando delivery. Timothy Nolen (Ned Keene), Elizabeth Bainbridge (Auntie), and Paul Kreider (Hobson) contributed valuable cameos, while some of the other minor roles fell victim to the director's taste for caricature.

Britten disliked the first Covent Garden production of *Peter Grimes* because most of the set represented the sea; as the sea is always present in the orchestra, he thought it more important to evoke the claustrophobic feeling of the Borough on stage.

Jean-Pierre Fouchelle — obviously not a man to heed sound advice — provided a vast expanse of sea and sky, complete with gulls on strings. In case anyone might be inclined to claustrophobia, he removed the walls and roof of the Moot Hall, so that the coroner's inquest could take place *al fresco* by the sea.

The Borough's buildings were giant postcards hung from masts and bearing Queen Victoria stamps. Ned Keene danced a Fred Astaire routine with hat and cane round Grimes during "Old Joe has gone fishing".

Nigel Jamieson

It is not from warm optimism but from a deeply uncertain wishful thinking: this is just one point where Barstow makes expressive profit from her comparative meekness in the lower register, which one readily accepts for the sake of her flame-like life and sensitivity higher in the voice.

Others new to the cast include Victor Braun as a world-weary, low-profile Balstrode, Peter Savidge as a cheeky and cheerily, appealingly sung Ned Keene, Patricia Johnson as a pinched, scolding Mrs Sedley and Alexander Oliver as a shining-faced parson of abundant good humour. Elizabeth Bainbridge, also with Florentine medals pinned to her chest, repeats her inimitable Auntie.

With so much character on stage, and Elijah Moshinsky's 1975 production still looking good, it is a pity to find the orchestra so out of sorts. The conductor John Barker rides the score hard, giving us a ragged storm and much unhelpfulness elsewhere.

Paul Griffiths

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Predators are back on the prowl

The number of takeovers is unlikely to reach the high pre-crash levels, says Cliff Feltham, but the availability of good buys means it is rising strongly

The stock market may be drifting and volumes are woefully low, but the mergers-and-acquisitions departments of merchant and investment banks might never have heard of the October crash. The mega-bid period is over but predators have been taking advantage of cash-rich institutions to launch a spate of takeovers.

"I am not sure," said one merchant banker, "that we can actually say we are seeing a revival of the great takeover boom, but there is certainly no shortage of companies with cash ready to take the plunge and chase targets which have now floated back into range."

Though predators have not been able to get away with bargains and are paying full prices, they have caught their prey as shareholders more readily part with their shares for cash. Bankers say the turning point was November 9 — three weeks after the great crash — that their faith in the capitalist system, and the prospect of chalking up handsome bonuses again, was restored.

On that day Alex Bernstein's Granada Group launched a £215 million takeover bid for Electronic Rentals, the Visionhire chain. By pre-crash standards it was a pretty small affair. But it came after what experts described as the longest gap between takeover bids in a decade.

Together with the raid by General Cinema of the US on Cadbury Schweppes, it confirmed that companies were now 30 to 40 per cent cheaper than a mere month before and there were bargains to be had.

The crash had interrupted a staggering three-year period of takeover mania — although the climax was probably reached in the spring of 1986



when Guinness and Argyll slugged it out for Distillers, and Hanson and United Biscuits did battle for the Imperial Group.

According to *Acquisitions Monthly*, UK companies were involved in 1,937 acquisitions in 1987, involving £27.7 billion. This compared with 1,323 bids worth £25 billion in 1986.

Last year also the assault on the United States continued. In 1987 British companies spent \$5.2 billion on US acquisitions, rising to \$13.6 billion in 1986 and last year more than \$31 billion. In 1987, 262 US business passed into British hands, up from 208 the year before.

It is too soon to say what the total amount spent on takeover bids in the UK will be this year. In the first three months it was running at £7.2 billion but all the signs are that it will be close to last year's total.

Philip Healey, editor of *Acquisitions Monthly*, says: "I think people have seen that the world is not going to end and that takeovers are picking up nicely. There are plenty of opportunities on the UK corporate scene and aggressive companies are starting to take full advantage of them."

But whereas during the boom years companies used the power of their inflated shares to mount bids, the emphasis has switched to cash. Experts say that cash has become more influential than at any time since the end of the Slater era in 1974.

One merchant banker said: "Companies which have been able to maintain cash balances have been well-equipped to take advantage of current conditions."

Victor Blank, chairman of Charterhouse, the merchant and investing bank group, said: "Companies are now trying to do deals which make more industrial sense. I don't think you are going to see any of the break-ups and split-ups which were around before the crash. People are now prepared to pay sensible prices to

buy businesses which will fit in with their own activities and which they can make grow in a sensible fashion."

Mr Blank, who advised the hotels and restaurants group Kennedy Brookings in its £174 million takeover by Trusthouse Forte, said: "There is little sign of the current takeover activity evaporating — in fact it is on the increase."

Though there has been a greater readiness to use cash in mounting takeover bids, there has been continued pressure on the big city institutions to look at the long-term logic of takeovers and not to make their decisions on short-term investment considerations alone.

This has posed a big dilemma for institutional shareholders involved in the year's most dramatic takeover bid so



Victor Blank: "Deals with more industrial sense"



John Ashcroft: control of two famous carpet brands

far — the £2 billion offer by the Swiss food group Nestlé for Rowntree.

Despite pleas by Rowntree to its shareholders to stick with the management and not to sell their shares in the stock market, the institutions have been eagerly collecting £9 and more for shares that had been worth just over £4 earlier in the year.

Fund managers, themselves under tremendous pressure to show results, have found it impossible to support incumbent managements, arguing that they also have a responsibility to their own shareholders and policy-holders.

Meanwhile, many of the country's best-known corporate raiders have been returning to the fray. John Ashcroft's home-furnishings group, Coloroll, has proposed a get-together with John Crowther, a textile group. The deal would give Mr Ashcroft two well-known carpet brands, Kosset and Crossley. But his plans have been frustrated by a higher counter-bid from another aggressive tycoon, Graham Rudd and his Thomas Robinson group.

Philip Birch's Ward White, the Payless and Halfords chain, has nipped in with a hostile takeover bid for A. G. Stanley, the Fads and Home Charm high-street retailing group.

In the US, BAT is battling for control of Farmers, the giant insurance group, and Brian Beazer's Bath-based building group is trying to expand its interests in aggregates through the acquisition of the Koppers business.

It was on his first visit to Britain during the course of his £450 million takeover battle for Equity & Law last autumn that Pascal Vienot, finance director of the French Compagnie du Midi, said: "In Britain few people have woken up yet to the fact that from 1992 we will all be operating in a different market. In France the forthcoming changes dominate our thinking."

Well, the British should be a lot clearer now. Over the last few weeks the assault by the two Swiss chocolate giants, Nestlé and Jacobs Suchard, have rudely brought home the implication of the next step towards a more common market. The politicians and the bureaucrats are now pondering just whether the home market should be re-defined.

Compagnie du Midi went on to win control of Equity & Law, of course, although only after being forced to jack up the price substantially by Sir Ron Brierley's Brierley Investments Limited, who from New Zealand evidently foresaw the future of Europe with more clarity than a good many people in the City of London.

But since its victory, it too has found its shares the target of a predator, this time from Italy, and has flung itself into the arms of its compatriot, the Asa group, rather than risk being ruled from outside its own boundaries.

All over Europe cross-border mergers are taking place as companies seek to strengthen their position in the bigger market-place that deregulation will bring. Hearteningly, the British are now taking part, too.

Not too many companies have been dissuaded from turning their attentions from the United States, where the perennial attraction of the world's largest market-place has combined with the decline in the dollar to lure any UK company with a couple of cents to rub together, but the number waking up to the idea that they cannot afford to be left out of the European revolution is growing. Records published by the magazine *Acquisitions Monthly* recently show that in

the first four months of 1988 UK companies launched a total of 62 takeovers for continental European companies, almost twice the number undertaken in the comparable period of 1987.

What is more, the aggregate value of the acquisitions made so far this year is £640 million, almost four times the £171 million chalked up at the same stage a year ago. It is of course important not to lose perspective. During the same period, three US companies, Farmers, Koppers and Staley Continental, have between them attracted takeover bids with a combined value of £4 billion from British companies.

The trend however is in the right direction. Billion-pound bids for European companies will continue to arouse hostility; national interest cannot be



subjugated to the extent that the Common Market's component countries are yet prepared to allow their biggest companies to be swallowed by a foreigner.

Indeed so concerned at the possibility are many of our European partners that they have constructed impenetrable barriers of red tape and regulations to keep the foreign predator out. Nestlé's vulnerability to a foreign bid is one reason its Rowntree bid has been met with quite so much passionate resistance.

Some pretty sizeable acquisitions by UK companies have gone through, however. The biggest to date this year is the CAP group's £94 million purchase of the French computer systems business, Semetria.

France is now the most popular area for expansion for UK companies in Europe, and the WCRS acquisition of a 50

per cent share in SGGMD for £65 million, and Coates Brothers £57 million swoop for printing-ink specialist Lorilleux Internationale rank second and third in the first four months.

More recently Pearson has agreed to acquire control of *Les Echos* in an £88 million deal.

Elsewhere British Aerospace picked up the Dutch dredging and construction business, Ballast Nedam, from £51 million and Metal Box paid £40 million for Heened Becher, a Belgian radiator company.

Last year it was the £153 million swoop by Tony Clegg's property group, Mountleigh, for the Spanish department store chain, Galerías Preciados, that took top place in the league table.

But Cadbury Schweppes, which paid £94 million for the French Chocolat Poulain, ICI (£93 million for Belgian seeds business, Société Européenne de Semences), Queens Moat Houses (£74 million for the German Globana Holiday Inns), Blue Circle (£73 million for the Swiss bricks group Romag) and BPB Industries (£69 million for the German-based Rigips plasterboard operations) all saw the increasing relevance of a powerful presence on mainland Europe.

Much of the activity has been among the smaller companies, with for instance, in the fast-rationalizing food manufacturing and distributing industries, groups such as Albert Fisher, turning its attention away from a rapid US acquisition programme, and Hazelwoods Foods, arranging a string of deals on the Continent.

Among those to have spotted the potential at an early stage was Hambros Bank, which over the last 18 months has forged links with four European financial institutions, in West Germany, Italy, Denmark and Spain, all of whose knowledge of their individual marketplaces complement the bank's corporate finance experience in merger opportunities.

Michael Tate

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FCO for up to £6.75 million
Della Femina Travisano for up to \$65 million
Saunders Design for up to £4.15 million
1987
Siebert/Head for up to £3.37 million
Alan Pascoe Associates for up to £7.5 million
The Ball Partnership for up to \$11.85 million
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MERGERS
AND ACQUISITIONS/2

FOCUS

In the takeover business, having ready money can decide success or failure

Plenty of bargains in sight for
the cash-rich groups

The Duchess of Windsor's remark that "you can never be too rich, or too thin" is an adage with which a number of British financial directors can readily identify.

Cash is an asset with a voice and a power of its own. It bestows on its holder an unbridled sense of well-being; is powerful ammunition in all corporate situations, and — with the notable exception of a devaluation — generally always counts.

As an instrument in takeover activity, cash is often the final weight in the scales which measures success or failure.

In today's Stock Exchange climate, where memories are fresh of last October and its aftermath, and fears are current that another equity shake-out could happen, corporate treasurers who hold substan-

**Wealthy firms
are in position
to pounce in a
weak share market**

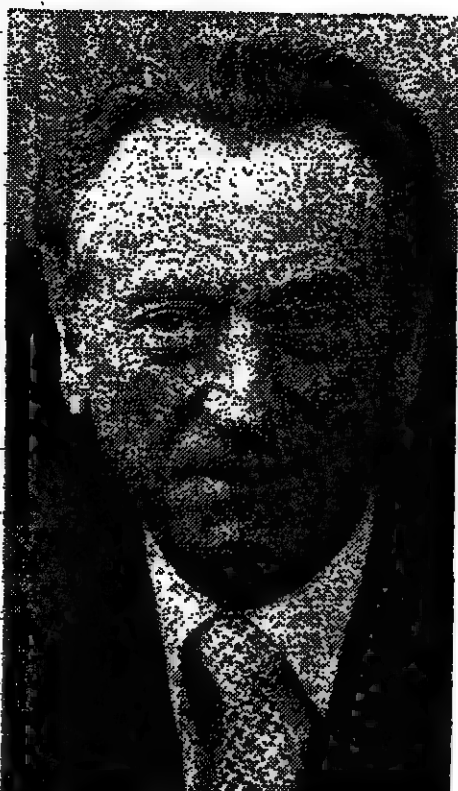
tial and uncommitted cash balances sit in a privileged position.

It is the cash-rich who can survey the obvious bargains that have been uncovered at their leisure, and it is they who can pounce on unsuspecting targets whose growth has been arrested by hard times.

In the past, cash-rich groups have been the butt of both private and institutional criticism. Shareholders, be they individual or corporate, invest in particular companies in the belief that quoted bodies will use the funds subscribed, and the annual profits earned, to plough back into the business in which they have a particular expertise to generate even faster profits.

They do not invest merely to watch the company use shareholders' funds to invest in the money market.

To the critics who in the



Lord Hanson, of Hanson, the industrial conglomerate, (left) and Lord Weinstock, of GEC.

past have urged companies not to sit on cash piles but to go out and invest, the stock market events of last October have vindicated many a group's caution.

Given that virtually every share price was knocked and that many shares are still but a shadow of their previous peaks, cash-rich companies are in a powerful position to pounce.

That the pace of takeover activity has not been even faster since last October owes much to the sense of caution and conservatism that pervades those groups which have taken years to establish their present cash mountains, but also to the thought that another market shakeout — which would thus present fresh, and even cheaper opportunities — could be on the horizon.

Several companies, by their nature, are generators of

significant cash mountains as a function of their day-to-day activities. However, a cash pile one day may turn into a borrowed position the next because of on-going activities, tax and dividend payments, and takeover moves.

And annual balance sheets, because they are drawn up to reflect the financial position of a company on a particular and single day, are not necessarily the true guide to a current position.

According to a computer readout of last published accounts drawn up by BZW, the broker, Hanson — the industrial conglomerate — was a holder of £2.98 billion of gross cash at its last reporting date. Since that date, however, it has spent \$1.6 billion on buying Kidde Corporation in the United States.

GEC, long regarded as one of the market's more con-



Lord Hanson, of Hanson, the industrial conglomerate, (left) and Lord Weinstock, of GEC.

tent builders of a cash pile, was sitting on gross cash balances of £1.4 billion, and at the end of December had a net cash position of £1.29 billion.

In 1988, GEC's net cash holdings totalled £617 million which fluctuated at year end dates around that level until the 1982 financial year. Then GEC disclosed cash balances of £1 billion, which reached a peak of around £1.7 billion in 1987.

Other significant gross cash holders include Shell (£1.3 billion), Unilever (£1.2 billion), and British Telecom whose investments and hard cash holdings were in the £1.77 billion region at the end of last December, reduced somewhat in January by a massive tax bill and a £200 million dividend payment to shareholders. The list

runs down to a modest £554 million at ICI, to £303 million at BTR, and down to £200 million at Satchi & Satchi.

Financial directors are, however, quick to point out that cash is no bad thing to hold in times of uncertainty, while corporate fund managers admit that it is now harder to raise fresh cash from shareholders unless the terms of the issue and the intended use of the funds wanted are attractive.

An old-fashioned rights issue with no other particular use in mind except to retire old debt is now a harder exercise to mount, while fund managers are showing increasing reluctance to subscribe for a new issue unless it can be demonstrated that the purpose for which the money is required will lead to a real and

positive increase in the borrower's net earnings a share.

There is, however, another side to the cash coin. There can be situations where a company is so lowly rated on the stock market that its total market capitalization is well below its break-up value.

And if that company's balance sheet strength happens to be its cash pile, then it is open to predators making a takeover bid for the whole of the company at a price which allows the bidder to pick up the whole company, including the cash pile, at a discount.

In those situations, cash — which otherwise might be regarded as king — becomes the joker.

**Fund managers
need evidence
of profit from
new issues**

Colin Campbell

Management buy-outs in reality moved into the serious money category when a few days before the stocks collapse of last October, MFI pulled out as a furniture retailing subsidiary from what was then Asda-MFI in a deal also involving the Hygena kitchen-maker supplying MFI which added up to £718 million.

There was a rash of other deals in those frantic pre-crash days. The buy-outs included Hays (worth £255 million), Humberlyde (£295 million) and Allied Steel & Wire (£181 million).

Since then there has still been a flow of smaller MBOs. At 3i, the Investors in Industry operation which is the United Kingdom's biggest provider of venture capital, there have been at least two MBOs a week on average.

But the mega-MBO has been notable for its absence. Between the stock market crash and the beginning of April only two sizeable MBOs emerged: Aynsley China at £17 million in December and Goldsmiths at £43 million in March.

This is according to the tracking of management buy-outs by Pear Marwick McLintock, the accountants and consultants, whose latest estimates point to a relative dearth of MBOs in the first quarter of this year.

Back in 1980 there were about 100 MBOs valued at £40 million, but by 1987 the annual total reached 300 worth £2,800 million. In the first quarter of this year, Peat's logged 70 MBOs, but worth only £140 million.

But perhaps the tide could be on the turn. David Coles, the Peat's partner responsible for MBOs, said: "There are signs of buy-outs coming back. It is a question of timing and it could come back very quickly. If a couple of big deals emerge — and these do take much less time to set up — we shall suddenly find there is a new ball game."

The crucial factor is how far, even though the share prices of public companies have plunged, such companies are now prepared to lower their price expectations when considering selling off subsidiaries to managements.

When more realistic views prevail is when the MBO tide will really flow again and there are many in the business of

**After the
buy-out,
the trend
is the
buy-in**



The logo of 3i, the Investors in Industry, which is Britain's biggest provider of venture capital. It has seen at least two management buy-outs a week on average

financing MBOs who believe that a more realistic mood is now starting to prevail. Certainly there is no shortage of funding for MBOs if their prospects look good.

Another influence also seems to be at work. The management buy-out has now become a relatively mature form but some believe that what is now moving into favour is the management buy-in.

The most recent sell-off to management is a buy-in. This deal, worth £74 million, is taking the provincial group of ten Lewis's department stores out of Sears, the group which

BUY-OUTS 1980-88		
Year	Number	Value (£m)
1980	100	40
1981	170	120
1982	190	230
1983	200	230
1984	190	260
1985	230	1,030
1986	270	1,230
1987	300	2,800
1988 (to date)	70	140
Totals	1,720	8,980
Annual average	218	740

owns London's Selfridges and a big slice of British shoe retailing and manufacturing.

The buy-in team is headed by Murray Gordon, the former chairman of Combined English Stores until its acquisition by Next last year, and now chairman of the ERA group.

The salient characteristic of a buy-in is when a deal involves not so much the existing management of a subsidiary but, at least to a dominant extent, a new management.

In retrospect it can be seen that the Paternoster group's move into Woolworth was one of the first management buy-ins.

At Arthur Young, another specialist on MBOs, David Howard, a corporate finance director, believes that the trend now is towards the management buy-in. He said: "We are finding there are so many more, while only a few years ago the idea was looked at askance."

Mr Coles at Peat's is positive about the change. He said: "Buy-ins have more logic. Why should investors sell their shares to management buy-outs when all that happens is the same managers are there? A buy-in does not suffer from that disadvantage: it is a new management team."

What is intriguing about the MBO phenomenon is that it has been employed even to frustrate a would-be corporate predator. When Trafalgar House put in a £37 million bid in 1985 for the Haden engineering group the management came up with a novel "white knight" in the form of a management buy-out. A consortium of financial institutions backed the management in a £55 million counter offer and won.

It was probably a special case. It presupposes a company with a good trade record, positive cash flow and perhaps assets which can be sold to add some financial incentive.

As Mr Howard at Arthur Young remarked: "As a general tactic it must be used with some caution. The management is clearly making a well informed estimate of the value of a company. So there is no defence if a predator makes a higher bid."

Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

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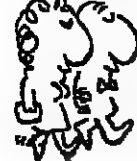
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INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN



BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
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THEATRE
LONDON

★ **BACK WITH A VENGEANCE** Dame Edna Everage back again posing the questions. Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 2660). Tube: Chancery Cross. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm. Sat 7.30-11pm. Sat 8.30-11pm. £20-25. Ends July 9. (D)

★ **BLUES IN THE NIGHT** Hit black blues show, with Carol Woods, Sarah Woodell, Helen Getzer and Peter Straker singing their hearts out in a sleazy Chicago hotel. Piccadilly Theatre, Denham Street, W1 (01-437 4508). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs 8-10pm, Fri and Sat 8.30-11pm and 8-11pm. £20-25. (D)

★ **THE COMMON PURSUIT** Simon Gray plays the fortunes of underdog friends: splendid cast led by Rik Mayall, John Sessions, Stephen Fry, John Gorman. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 2294). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Thurs 8-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8.45-11pm, mat 8.15pm and Sat 8.15pm. £20-25. (D)

★ **DANGEROUS OBSESSION** Better-than-average revenge thriller. Fortune Theatre, Strand Street WC2 (01-836 2238). Tube: Covent Garden. Mon-Fri 8-10.50pm, Sat 8.30-10.30pm, mat 3-5.50pm and Sat 3.30-7.30pm. £20-25. (D)

★ **DOCTOR FAUSTUS** Stephen Jenn plays to capture Peter Guinness's soul in Marlowe's version of the legend. Young Vic Theatre, 66 The Cut SE1 (01-928 6363). Tues-Thurs 7.30pm, mat Wed, Thurs and Fri 2pm, £7.50.

★ **EASY VIRTUE** Attractive revival of Noel Coward 1926 with Jane How and David Warriner giving the lowdown on down under. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road WC2 (01-379 6107). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.30pm, mat 3-5.15pm and Sat 3-7.15pm. £7.50-£12.50.

★ **EMERALD CITY** Australian hit comedy by David Warriner giving the lowdown on down under. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road WC2 (01-379 6107). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.30pm, mat 3-5.15pm and Sat 3-7.15pm. £7.50-£12.50.

★ **MARY STUART** Patsy Stone and Fiona Shaw as Mary and Mary in Schiller's romantic drama. Greenwhich Theatre, Greenwhich (15 min from Charing Cross). Mon-Sat 7.45pm; Mat 2.30pm. £20-25.

★ **SOUTH PACIFIC** Gemma Craven and Elinor Bell in magnificent staged revival. Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry Street, W1 (01-539 5985). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Wed and Sat 2.30pm. £20-25.

★ **UNCLE VANYA** Michael Gambon in the title role, with Jonathan Pryce and other splendid players in Michael Blakemore's production. Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-836 9988). Tube: Chancery Cross. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.30pm, mat 2.30pm. Previews: 25-27.50. From May 24: £7.50-£15.

★ **WORD-WATCHING** *Angels from page 24*

HIDDEN
(b) Ramon (d. 1364), a Benedictine of St Werburg's, Chester, who wrote the *Polychronicon*, a universal history in Latin prose down to his own days.

EARWICKER
(a) The dreaming hero of *Flanagan's Wake*, a pubman in Cheltenham just outside Dublin, whose waking name is probably Mr Porter, and whose name in his dream is Humphrey Chimpden Earwicker.

ISABEL ARCHER
(a) The heroine of *Portrait of a Lady*, the daughter of Henry James's middle period.

HENRY YORKIE
(b) The name in real life of "Henry Green", one of the few novelists who have written convincingly about factory life and the English class system.

LONGS RUNNERS ★ *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*: Queen's Theatre (01-734 1168). ★ *The Business of Murder*: Mayfair Theatre (01-529 3038). ★ *Cats*: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ★ *Les Misérables*: Palace Theatre (01-334 0909). ★ *The Mousetrap*: St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443). ★ *Phantom of the Opera*: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-836 9244). ★ *Run For Your Wife*: Criterion Theatre (01-830 3216). ★ *Starlight Express*: Apollo Theatre (01-836 8885). ★ *There They Were*: Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122).

OUT OF TOWN

BIRMINGHAM ★ *No Orchids for Miss Blenheim*: Adaptation of famous 40s pulp thriller. Repertory Theatre, Broad Street (021 236 4455). Mon-Sat 7.30pm. £4-£7.60.

CHICHESTER ★ *Major Barbara*: Anna Carter and Donald Sinden in Shaw's Solly Army play. Festival Theatre, Oldlands Park (01323 781312). Mon-Thurs and Sat 7.30pm. £20-25.

MANCHESTER ★ *Twelfth Night*: Sackville, Tim McInerney and Gary Wadsworth in a new production. Royal Exchange Theatre, Cross Street (061 833 9833). Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm. £20-25.

FILMS

★ **Also on national release**
★ **Advance booking possible**

BABETTE'S FEAST (U): One of Karen Blumenthal's lighter tales, and a comedy transferred to the screen by a fellow Dane, Gabriel Axel. With Stéphane Audran as a famous Parisian chef who tests her skills on an austere religious community (105 min). Cannon Premiere (01-439 4470). Progs 2.40, 5.00, 7.25, 9.45.

BARFLEY (18): Charles Bickford wrote the script for this humorous, semi-autobiographical look at life in a seedy Los Angeles bar. With Mickey Rourke as a seedy poet of the bottle, and Eric Roberts as his equally alcoholic companion. A first American film from the Swiss-French director Barbet Schroeder (89 min). Cannon Premiere (01-439 4470). Progs 1.40, 3.45, 5.50, 8.05, 10.15.

★ **CRY FREEDOM** (PG): Richard Attenborough's bumper production of exciting spectacle and liberal sentiments: with Kevin Kline as journalist Donald Woodcock, drawn into the South African anti-apartheid struggle (Denzel Washington) (158 min). Empire Leicester Square (01-200 0355). Progs 12.05, 2.25, 4.45, 7.10, 9.30.

DUDES (15): Three New York punks head for Hollywood but run into trouble from a crazed gang running the West. A heavy-handed exercise from director Penelope Spheeris; with Jon Cryer.

★ **THE LAST EMPEROR** (15): Bernardo Bertolucci's gorgeously photographed epic tells the extraordinary story of P. Ching, the last imperial ruler, who lived to become a model Communist citizen. With John Lone, Peter O'Toole (182 min). Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5068). Progs 2.30, 7.40.

★ **SCREEN ON BAKER STREET** (01-836 2772). Progs 2.30, 7.40. **SCREEN ON BAKER STREET** (01-836 2772). Progs 2.30, 7.40. **SCREEN ON BAKER STREET** (01-836 2772). Progs 2.30, 7.40.

BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending May 14

FICTION
1 *Summer's Lease*, John Mortimer Viking £10.95
2 *Medusa*, Hammond Innes Collins £10.95
3 *The Veiled One*, Ruth Rendell Hutchinson £10.95
4 *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, Tom Wolfe Harper £12.95
5 *The Fifth Child*, Doris Lessing Cape £9.95

NON-FICTION
1 *Queen Mary's Dolls House*, M Stewart-Wilson Bodley Head £15.00
2 *Flora's Kitchen*, Anton Moscatell Piat £16.95
3 *The King in Love*, Tom Aronson Murray £12.95
4 *Mary and Richard*, Michael Burn Deutsch £12.95
5 *1988 Michelin France* Michelin £9.00

PAPERBACKS
1 *Rage*, Wilbur Smith Pan £3.99
2 *Historic Houses, Castles & Gardens*, British Leisure £3.50
3 *Something Understood*, Gerald Priestland Arrow £3.99
4 *The Sisters*, Pat Booth Arrow £3.50
5 *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, Milan Kundera Faber £3.95

6 *Nice Demarcation of Epitaphs*, Ellis Peters Futura £2.95
7 *Proms '88* BBC £1.50
8 *Trust, Mary Flanagan Penguin £3.95*
9 *Celtic Guide to Hotels & Restaurants*, Egon Ronay AA Publications £9.95
10 *Between The Woods and The Water*, Patrick Leigh Fermor Penguin £3.95

Source: Hatchards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

Fellow of infinite talent

For someone still only in his mid-twenties the theatrical achievements of Kenneth Branagh have been spread exceptionally wide. As an actor he played the Marston schoolboy in *Another Country* and a series of roles for the RSC that included Henry V. He directed himself in *Romeo and Juliet*, and himself again in *Public Enemy*, his own play about gangster fantasies in Northern Ireland. For an earlier actor, *Tell Me Honestly*, about an actor's experience with a sort of RSC, he also wrote the music and lyrics. He played the title role in the Billy television plays and the wilful Pringle stumbling from Romania to wartime Egypt in *The Fortunes of War*. Last year he directed John Sessions in his self-out *Life of Napoleon* and Richard Briers in a superb *Twelfth Night*. Also last year he and fellow actor David Parfitt became producers and set up the Renaissance Theatre Company, which is doing a business with *Much Ado About Nothing* (director: Judi Dench) and *As You Like It* (director: Geraldine McEwan). It starts previews today for Derek Jacobi's production of *Hamlet*, with Branagh as the Prince. Nothing else, flat or unprofitable about Branagh's world. Repertory Theatre Studio, Broad Street, Birmingham, (021 236 4455). Previews from tonight 7.30pm. Starts May 24, 7pm, £20-25.50. *Jeremy Kingston*



Great Dane: Branagh plays Hamlet with Sophie Thompson as Ophelia in a new production at Birmingham

CONCERTS

★ **END MUSIC**: As yet another contribution to End Games Kurt Masur conducts the RPO in Mozart's Piano Concerto K 537 (Michael Red, soloist). Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SW1 (01-828 3191). cc 01-828 8800. 7.30-9.30pm, £4-22.

★ **PERLEUTER PLAYS**: Veteran French pianist Vlado Perleuter plays Chopin's Ballades, Fauré's Variations Op 73 and Debussy's *Four études*. Wigmore Hall, 25 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). 7.30pm, £3-27.50.

★ **CHUNGUS**: Kyung Wha Chung, violin, Myung Wha Chung, piano, and Myung Wha Chung, piano, solo in Beethoven's Triple Concerto with the SLO.

★ **ALL BEETHOVEN**: John Lill continues his complete Beethoven piano sonata series with Op 10 No 1, 2, 7 and 10. Royal Festival Hall, London SW1 (01-935 2141). 7.30pm, £3-27.50.

★ **THE SUGARCOATS**: The ones with that funny get singer; Ray's most successful pop group. The SLO. Wigmore Hall, 25 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). 7.30pm, £3-27.50.

★ **RY COODER**: The original world musician and originator of many a sleepy slide-guitar soundtrack; touring with his *Mojo-Blast* Rhythm Aces which includes accordionist Fido Jimenez and vocalist Bobby King. NEC, Birmingham (021 700 4133). 7.30pm, £2-10.

★ **FLEETWOOD MAC**: After 21 years of metamorphosis the scuffling British blues band has turned into a sanctuary for dramatic Californian soft rock celebrities. Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Middlesex (01-902 1234). 7.30pm, £15-25, also Sat, Sun, Tue & Wed.

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GALLERIES

COUL ROSE Paintings and watercolours. Coach House Contemporary Art, 9 Main Street, Kirby Lonsdale, Lancashire (05252 71142). Mon-Sat, 9.30-5pm, free, until June 18.

KEN KOFF New paintings by the inventor of strange figures, beasts and lands. Fletcher Fine Art, 30 King Street, London SW1 (01-839 3942). Mon-Fri 10-5.30pm, free, until June 24.

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ROCK

★ **BILLY OCEAN**: With an endless supply of major updates Ocean has become Britain's biggest pop-soul export. Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (01-748 4061). 7.30pm, £7.50-25.50, for four nights.

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DANCE

★ **ONDRINE**: The Royal Ballet's new production of Ashton's three act work to music by Hecate. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1088). 7.30-10.10pm £21-240.

★ **SQUARE DANCE**: This and another work by Balanchine. For *Temperaments*, are given at the Brighton Festival by Ballet du Nord. Theatre Royal, New Road, Brighton (0273 28468). 7.30-10.10pm £21-240.

★ **DUTCH**: A work between dance and theatre by Trous Bronckhorst. ICA Theatre, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3471). 8-9.30pm £25.50.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00 **Cricket** AM. 6.40 **Leon** in *It's a Joke* (b/w). 6.55 **Weather**. 7.00 **Breakfast** Time with John Stapleton and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15. Plus, the Duke of Edinburgh talking to John Stapleton about his involvement in the World Wildlife Fund, this week re-named the World Wide Fund for Nature.
- 8.00 **News** and weather followed by *Four Square*. Quiz game (r). 8.25 **Quiz** Robert Kilroy-Gibbs chairs a studio discussion on births at home. The guests include Michael Oatley.
- 10.00 **News** and weather followed by *Children's BBC*. Andy Crane with programme details and birthday greetings followed by *Cartoon Double Bill* and *Play School*, presented by Jane Harby with guest Neil Martin (r).
- 10.40 **International One-Day Cricket** from Edgbaston. Live coverage of the first of the best of three, 50-over sides, matches for the Texaco Trophy between England and the West Indies. Introduced by Tony Lewis with commentary from Richie Benaud and Jack Barnard.
- 11.00 **News** and weather at 11.00 and 12.00. 12.00 **Regional** news and weather.
- 1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Martin Lewis. Weather 1.30 **Neighbours**. The Robinson v Ramsey feud revisited as the case goes to the police boys' club hall for the big challenge fight between Shane and Mike. 1.50 **Four Square**. Quiz game.
- 2.15 **All Well and Good**. Looking and feeling good series presented by Suzanne Dando and Christopher Lillicrap.

BBC2

- 6.55 **Open University: Social Science**. 7.00 **Cricket**. 7.30 **Daytime on Two**: cell biology. 8.30 **Science** - floating. 9.30 **Debate**. 10.30 **Cricket**. 11.00 **Thinkabout It**. 11.15 **Drought**. 11.30 **An unmarried mother** living with her parents. 12.05 **Farmers** in south-west France. 12.55 **A girl in a hospital** for teenagers in care. 12.55 **Meats** inset.
- 1.20 **King of the Ring**. 1.25 **What's Inside?** (r). 1.35 **Music Time** (r). 2.00 **News** and weather followed by a programme on Britain's endangered wildlife (r).
- 2.15 **Cricket** and *Mid-week Racing*. Tony Lewis introduces coverage of the one-day game between England and the West Indies at Edgbaston. Ian Wilson is at Goodwood for the 240, 310, 340 and 410 races.
- 7.30 **Call My Bluff**. This week Frank Muir and Arthur Marshall are joined by John Regan. Rightly called: Lionel Blue, Jan, Francis and Rob Heyland.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** begins with the Sports Show introduced by Geoff Clark. 6.30 **The Morning Programme** with Richard Keys. 7.00 **Good Morning Britain**. 7.30 **Good Morning Britain**. 8.00 **Good Morning Britain**. 8.30 **Good Morning Britain**. 9.00 **Good Morning Britain**. 9.30 **Good Morning Britain**. 10.00 **Good Morning Britain**. 10.30 **Good Morning Britain**. 11.00 **Good Morning Britain**. 11.30 **Good Morning Britain**. 12.00 **Good Morning Britain**. 12.30 **Good Morning Britain**. 1.00 **Good Morning Britain**. 1.30 **Good Morning Britain**. 1.45 **Good Morning Britain**. 2.00 **Good Morning Britain**. 2.30 **Good Morning Britain**. 3.00 **Good Morning Britain**. 3.30 **Good Morning Britain**. 4.00 **Good Morning Britain**. 4.30 **Good Morning Britain**. 5.00 **Good Morning Britain**. 5.30 **Good Morning Britain**. 6.00 **Good Morning Britain**.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Options**. Malcolm Turnbull, the defending attorney in the *Spectator* case, discusses freedom of speech and freedom of information in Britain.
- 8.30 **Treasure Hunt**. This final programme of the series is set in North Wales. (Crack)
- 9.30 **Man of the Year**. A film of the 1987 starring Louis Gossett Jr. and Holly Hunter. Drama, set in the 1950s, about a white farmer in the former slave quarter of a plantation. Directed by Volker Schlöndorff.
- 11.15 **A Family**. A sequel to last week's documentary, *Sid's Family*. It is now six years on and Sid is looking after his six children.
- 12.30 **Man of the Year**. A film of the 1987 starring Louis Gossett Jr. and Holly Hunter. Drama, set in the 1950s, about a white farmer in the former slave quarter of a plantation. Directed by Volker Schlöndorff.

Mistaken identities

TELEVISION CHOICE

● In 1936 two women entered a Nottingham nursing home to have their babies. They both gave birth to girls and they became firm friends. The next day, however, things started to go wrong. Flowers, letters and telegrams addressed to one of the women were delivered to the other. Mixing up the mothers was one thing, but surely they could not mix up the babies? They could, and did. Margaret Wheeler, a nurse, had happened early on but Fred Rylatt, husband of the other, declined to discuss the matter. So, in a curious way, things were left as they were and the two little girls grew up with substitute mothers. Mrs Wheeler went on trying to resolve the situation, even writing to George Bernard Shaw about it. In the current series of 40 *Mistaken Identities* (BBC2, 9.30pm). The remarkable thing is that through all their agencies, the two families remained on good terms, kept in touch and never let their



The correct mother and daughter line up: (from left to right) Peggy with Margaret, Valerie with Valerie (BBC2, 9.30pm)

feelings boil over. In effect, they pursued a policy of doing nothing rash and trusting that all would come right in the end. They were triumphantly vindicated. The programme ends with the two original mothers, now grandmothers a total of 19 times over, hands clasped, happily reminiscing and still good friends.

Peter Waymark

Radio 1

6.55 **Weather**. News headlines. 7.00 **Morning Concert**: Vaughan Williams (Overture to The Wasps). LEO under Handley; Darius (Brigg Fair). RPO under Beecham.

7.30 **News**. 7.35 **Concert**: Bartok (Overture to The Firebird). The Minute: Boumoumoum. Soloists under del Mar. Holst (Hymn to Dionysus). Op 31 No 2: RPO and Royal College of Music Chamber Choir under Wilcocks. Elgar (Variations on an Original Theme) (Enigma). LEO under Boult.

Radio 2

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WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. Add an hour for BST. 6.00 **News**. 6.30 **News**. 7.00 **News**. 7.30 **News**. 8.00 **News**. 8.30 **News**. 9.00 **News**. 9.30 **News**. 10.00 **News**. 10.30 **News**. 11.00 **News**. 11.30 **News**. 12.00 **News**. 12.30 **News**. 1.00 **News**. 1.30 **News**. 2.00 **News**. 2.30 **News**. 3.00 **News**. 3.30 **News**. 4.00 **News**. 4.30 **News**. 5.00 **News**. 5.30 **News**. 6.00 **News**. 6.30 **News**. 7.00 **News**. 7.30 **News**. 8.00 **News**. 8.30 **News**. 9.00 **News**. 9.30 **News**. 10.00 **News**. 10.30 **News**. 11.00 **News**. 11.30 **News**. 12.00 **News**. 12.30 **News**. 1.00 **News**. 1.30 **News**. 2.00 **News**. 2.30 **News**. 3.00 **News**. 3.30 **News**. 4.00 **News**. 4.30 **News**. 5.00 **News**. 5.30 **News**. 6.00 **News**. 6.30 **News**. 7.00 **News**. 7.30 **News**. 8.00 **News**. 8.30 **News**. 9.00 **News**. 9.30 **News**. 10.00 **News**. 10.30 **News**. 11.00 **News**. 11.30 **News**. 12.00 **News**. 12.30 **News**. 1.00 **News**. 1.30 **News**. 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Death of Sir Brandon sets election test

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Government faces a by-election this summer in an inner-city Conservative seat with a majority of below 5,000 as a result of the death of Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, MP for Kensington and one of the most respected campaigners in the Commons.

Sir Brandon died in Westminster Hospital early yesterday from pneumonia brought on by leukaemia.

After recent ructions over social security reforms, the health service and the exchange rate policy differences between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, the first by-election of this Parliament will be an important test of the Government's standing. Recent opinion polls have shown the Labour Party closing the gap on the Conservatives and in some cases moving ahead.

Kensington, in west London, is the kind of seat which the Labour party must win at by-elections if Mr Neil Kinnock is to have a hope of power at the next election. The by-election is also expected to see the first Parliamentary contest between the SLD, which will choose a leader in July, and Dr David Owen's SDP.

In a letter to a meeting of his constituency association only last month, when they were deciding whether to reappoint him for the next election, Sir Brandon warned that there had been a heavy fall in the

population in the safe Conservative areas of the constituency, with a smaller decline in the solid Labour areas.

Though Sir Brandon took an increased share of the vote at the general election, with 47.5 per cent a majority of 4,447, he told the local party: "In each Parliamentary election the Conservative campaign has had to be more vigorous and relevant than the time before in order to keep up the majority."

Figures at the last General Election, when just 64 per cent of the electorate voted, were: Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (Con) 14,818 (47.5%); B T Bousquet (Lab) 10,371 (33.2%); W H Goodhart (SDP-All) 5,379 (17.2%); R E Shorter (Green) 328 (1.7%); Miss L Carrick (Humanists) 65 (0.2%); Mrs P Hughes (Public Independent Plaintiff) 30 (0.1%).

The 6ft 4in Sir Brandon was regarded in the Commons as one of the last of the old school Tories. An old Etonian ex-Guards officer with an estate in Wales, he was a man of deep social conscience who was not afraid to rebel on what he saw as issues of social justice.

Mr Kinnock, Labour leader, said: "He was decent and diligent, liked on both sides, part of the tradition of One Nation Toryism."

Leading article, page 13
Obituary, page 14

Bombers 'targeted Britons'

Khartoum (Reuters) - Three men have confessed to attacks on a Khartoum club and an hotel in which seven people died, saying they wanted to hit US and British targets. Sudan's police chief, General Ibrahim Abdul-Karim, said yesterday.

He told reporters the three men, carrying Lebanese passports, said they had been trained in an Arab country which he did not name.

The three were arrested shortly after a bomb attack on the Acropole Hotel and a machine-gun raid on the Sudan Club in central Khartoum on Sunday. Among those killed were five Britons, including two children. At least 21 people were injured.

LONDON: A Foreign Office source said yesterday he believed the attacks were "externally motivated". But officially the Foreign Office was unable to corroborate the reports from Khartoum that the attacks on were targeted at British and American interests (Nicholas Beeson writes).

"We are staying in close touch with the Sudanese authorities, but it is still unclear whether the attacks were indiscriminate or aimed specifically at British targets," a spokesman said.

Football fans are set free

Continued from page 1

of one of the observation logs which in the present climate was bound to leave the jury in doubt as to the accuracy of the logs.

Judge Lloyd refused a prosecution request for an adjournment or a retrial.

After yesterday's court case Mr Stuart Edwards, solicitor for one of the alleged ring-leaders, Mr Chris Henderson, said: "We are now considering suing the police for damages."

The eight acquitted were: Chris Henderson, of Hopewell Street, Camberwell, south-east London; Stuart Glass, 26, of Biscoe Road, Heston, south-west London; Jeremy Bodkin, 22, of Mount Ephraim Road, Southam, south London; Martin Huggins, 20, of Hartland Road, Morden, Surrey, all unemployed; Giles Whitbread, 21, a bricklayer, of Justin Close, Brentford, south-west London; Lee Elmer, 20, a gardener of Cranbourne Drive, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire; Mark Smith, 23, a labourer, of Acers Road, Colliers Wood, south-west London and Mark Baldwin, 23, an assistant manager, of Lymouth Avenue, Morden, Surrey.

They all denied conspiracy to fight and cause affray with others between August 1, 1986 and March 10, 1987.

3,313-year-old feast for a king



M Christian Tutundjian de Vartavan, rediscoverer of the provisions in Tutankhamun's tomb, shows examples of the remarkably-preserved treasures now being catalogued by staff at University College London. (Photograph: Graham Wood)

Tutankhamun hoard found

Continued from page 1

for a dead king's garland 13 centuries before Christ, was to experience a sense of wonder and excitement that the presence of the looted gold mask could perhaps not generate.

Christian Tutundjian felt it too. "When I first saw the wreath, I just stared at it for thirty seconds," he said. "When Mr Hillman saw it, he kept staring at it, for about three or four minutes, until I had to suggest that we did some work on it. It is wonderfully exciting."

His discovery came when he asked Kew for some ancient Egyptian material to study for his thesis. He was

curious about the provenance of what he had obtained.

Tracing back through the Kew archives, he found that it was a representative sample of the Tutankhamun material, which was on long-term loan from the Egyptian Department of Antiquities, and had been sent to Kew by Howard Carter in 1932, for examination by Mr L A Boodle, a retired Kew plant anatomist.

Mr Boodle's report was never published, so far as is known, though a spidery scrawl on the box labels, which identifies 19 plants, may be his.

Mr Boodle, who was carry-

ing out his survey on a private basis for Carter, subsequently died, and with the death of Carter himself, the entire collection seems to have been overlooked, labelled simply: "From Ancient Egypt".

M Tutundjian, a fresh-faced Parisian who must return to France in the summer for his military service before embarking on a career as an archaeologist, is seemingly unaffected by his find, even when it was put to him that producing a catalogue raisonné of the plants of Tutankhamun's tomb as an MSc thesis at the age of 23 was pretty remarkable going.

Blast at Soviet plant 'a catastrophe'

Continued from page 1

back production of the SS24 by at least six months.

"It was a hell of an explosion," one official said. "All that's left of one building at the plant is a hole in the ground. Another building was also damaged. The building that's gone was the only production line for the main motor of the SS24. It will probably take six months to get it going again."

Tass later reported that 12 tonnes of what it called "quarrying powder" blew up in an accident during loading and unloading operations.

The United States suffered

the same kind of incident earlier this month when the Pacific Engineering and Production Company facility near Las Vegas, in Nevada, which produces about half the US requirement of ammonium perchlorate solid fuel for rockets, exploded.

If the American interpretation of the Pavlovgrad explosion is accurate, it is the latest in a long line of serious problems which the Russians have faced in their strategic modernization programme.

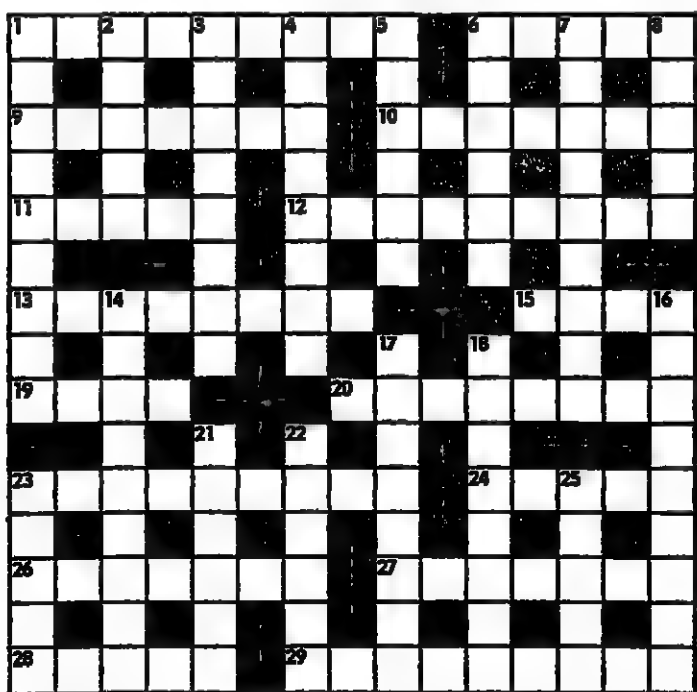
The Soviet Union is also having problems with the submarine-launched SS-N-23 ballistic missile which is de-

veloped on Delta class craft. In March, Rear-Admiral William Studeman, director of US Navy Intelligence, revealed that the missile "had suffered reliability problems".

The Soviet Blackjack supersonic nuclear bomber has also suffered long delays.

The SS24 has faced other problems prior to the explosion. The three-stage solid fuel missile had seven failures in the first 10 test flights. So far, only about 10 of the missiles have been deployed, far less than the SS25 mobile missile, which is much smaller and has only one warhead.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,673



- ACROSS**
- Glazed look of chap with elbow dislocated (5-4).
 - Key to clever film star (5).
 - One star Roman general (7).
 - Virtually nothing in a name (7).
 - Form of address when married to a gardener (5).
 - Peace proposal giving Ireland northern representation (9).
 - An elder could be so removed (8).
 - Run when the predator returns (4).
 - Observe a small shoot (4).
 - The song of the gypsy (8).
 - Pressure on an astute fighter (9).
 - Somewhat curtailed but blooming early (5).
 - Gang ran items abroad, including the hard stuff (7).
 - In true Liberal fashion, put up again (7).
 - One's moved by end of play - wanting to know more? (5).
 - An agent proverbially broad-minded (9).
- DOWN**
- A horse below standard indicates overriding (9).
 - Cold in Harley Street? (5).
 - The sort of spectacles that last a fortnight (4-4).
 - For him the drums are playing their part (8).
 - Cheerless outcome of a victory effort (6).
 - First two characters in Genesis with little sign of heavenly influence (6).
 - Sort of vision of Lion and Crab moving round universe (9).
 - She's the topless beauty of the north (5).
 - Times of pecuniary need likely from July 15th (5,4).
 - City nomination a Parliamentary success (9).
 - Micro-organisms in bismuth a trace unusual (8).
 - Miss Spenlow incompetent but pleasing (8).
 - Humour when duty leaves room for it (6).
 - Old king - say the diminutive Albert? (6).
 - He had lots of dips in Dickensian London (5).
 - Woven fabric - tip-top choice (5).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

LITERATI
By Philip Howard

- HIDDEN**
a. A scriptorium
b. A historian
c. A journalist in Trollope
- EARWICKER**
a. A dramatic publican
b. A German novelist
c. A literary hearing aid
- ISABEL ARCHER**
a. A dramatic publican
b. A German novelist
c. A literary hearing aid
- HENRY YORKE**
a. A Shakespearean spear-carrier
b. Industrialist and novelist
c. Dickens' publisher

Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,672



The eighth Penguin Book of The Times Crosswords is now on sale, price £1.95

WEATHER

Cool weather will persist with a bright, crisp start to the day particularly for east and south-east parts of England. Showers will soon develop across western and northern districts, becoming more widespread and heavier, possibly with hail and thunder, and moving east to affect eastern districts too. In the north showers will fall as snow over some parts. Outlook: becoming dry and settled.

AROUND BRITAIN

Station	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Barnstaple	1.8	1.8	48	cloudy
Birmingham	1.8	1.8	48	cloudy
Belfast	1.8	1.8	48	cloudy
Birmingham	1.8	1.8	48	cloudy
Birmingham	1.8	1.8	48	cloudy
Birmingham	1.8	1.8	48	cloudy
Birmingham	1.8	1.8	48	cloudy
Birmingham	1.8	1.8	48	cloudy
Birmingham	1.8	1.8	48	cloudy
Birmingham	1.8	1.8	48	cloudy

ABROAD

Station	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	24.7	24.7	24.7	cloudy
Algeria	24.7	24.7	24.7	cloudy
Algeria	24.7	24.7	24.7	cloudy
Algeria	24.7	24.7	24.7	cloudy
Algeria	24.7	24.7	24.7	cloudy
Algeria	24.7	24.7	24.7	cloudy
Algeria	24.7	24.7	24.7	cloudy
Algeria	24.7	24.7	24.7	cloudy
Algeria	24.7	24.7	24.7	cloudy

HIGH TIDES

Station	Time	Height
London Bridge	10.14	10.14
London Bridge	10.14	10.14
London Bridge	10.14	10.14
London Bridge	10.14	10.14
London Bridge	10.14	10.14
London Bridge	10.14	10.14
London Bridge	10.14	10.14
London Bridge	10.14	10.14
London Bridge	10.14	10.14

THE POUND

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia	2.55	Switzerland	2.55
Australia	2.55	Switzerland	2.55
Australia	2.55	Switzerland	2.55
Australia	2.55	Switzerland	2.55
Australia	2.55	Switzerland	2.55
Australia	2.55	Switzerland	2.55
Australia	2.55	Switzerland	2.55
Australia	2.55	Switzerland	2.55
Australia	2.55	Switzerland	2.55

AM



LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8m to 12m, 12m (B4F) min 5m to 8m, 7m (B4F). Humidity: 5m to 10 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 5pm, 0.02in. Sun: 24hr to 5pm, 1.7hr. Bar: mean sea level, 5pm, 1015.1 millibars, rising. 0.12 in. highest sunshine: 7m, 14.6 hr.

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be closed at the following times today: 7.20am, 10.30am, 1.45pm and 5.00pm.

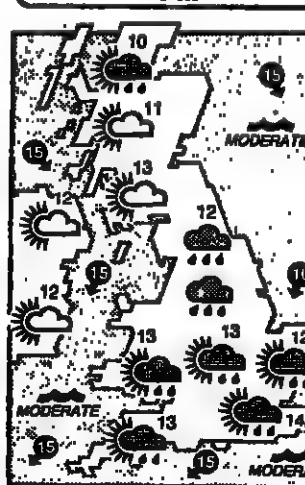
YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud 1; fair; r. rain; s. sun.

NOON TODAY

Information supplied by London Weather Centre

PM



HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 24.0 (75F); lowest day temp: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 9.0 (48F); highest night temp: 10.1 (50F); lowest night temp: 0.1 (32F); highest rainfall: 14.6 in. (Shrewsbury); lowest rainfall: 0.12 in. (highest sunshine: 7m, 14.6 hr).

LIGHTING UP TIME

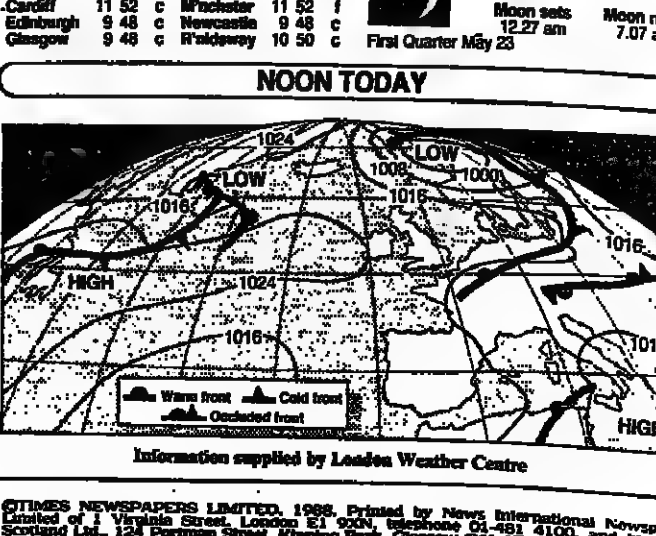
London 5.22 pm to 4.32 am
Bristol 5.22 pm to 4.42 am
Edinburgh 5.57 pm to 4.21 am
Manchester 5.46 pm to 4.31 am
Penzance 5.30 pm to 4.59 am

MOON

First Quarter May 23

NOON TODAY

Information supplied by London Weather Centre



Information supplied by London Weather Centre

هكذا من الأصل

كتاب من لندن

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1425.4 (-10.1)	US dollar 1.8810 (-0.0030)
FT-SE 100 1777.5 (-11.6)	W German mark 3.1749 (+0.0005)
USM (Datastream) 155.25 (-0.14)	Trade-weighted 78.3 (-0.1)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

London Life to merge

London Life, the British mutual life office established in 1806, is merging with Australian Mutual Provident Society, Australia's largest life office.

The deal will considerably help the British life office to cope with the growing competition it faces in financial services and to rebuild its financial muscle after the hammering it took in last October's market crash.

Dr John Evans, London Life's managing director, said he was already sizing up possible marriage partners when AMP - whose assets of more than £10 billion dwarf London Life's £1.5 billion - proposed the merger.

Study starts

British Urban Development, the consortium of 11 civil engineering and property groups, gave the go-ahead yesterday for the second, in-depth study stage of the proposed development of 6,000 acres on Teesside.

Avon up 44%

Avon Rubber, the tyres, industrial polymers and inflatable group, reported a 44 per cent jump in half time pretax profits to £7.7 million. An interim dividend of 4p (3p) was declared.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2881.04 (-25.37)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	27767.58 (-42.40)
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	2589.28 (-0.81)
Australia	S&P 500	243.1 (-0.3)
Sydney	ASX 200	1483.4 (+15.0)
Frankfurt	DAX	1896.1 (-7.3)
Brussels	General	4882.0 (+0.3)
Paris	CAC	3519.3 (-1.3)
Zurich	SIX	483.4 (-1.7)
London	FT-30	1425.4 (-10.1)
FT-100	FT-100	1777.5 (-11.6)
Gold	Gold	382.5 (+0.5)
FT Fixed Interest	FT Fixed Interest	98.06 (-0.05)
FT Govt Secs	FT Govt Secs	90.05 (-0.15)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

USDC	88.60p (+0.40p)
MEPC	300p (+25p)
Schroders	3.24p (+0.15p)
Central TV	2.52p (+0.15p)
Thames TV	3.25p (+0.15p)
Wm Low	3.87p (+0.25p)
P & O	58.40p (+1.7p)
Celler Group	37p (+1.5p)
Dorchester Hotel	9.25p (+0.10p)
Land Securities	58.95p (+3.3p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	7.5%
3-month interbank	7.1% - 7.2%
3-month eligible bills	7.1% - 7.2%
Buying rate	US Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds	6.5%
3-month Treasury Bills	6.25 - 6.27%
30-year bonds	9.6% - 9.65%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£1.8810	\$1.8810
£1.8810	\$1.8810
£1.8810	\$1.8810
£1.8810	\$1.8810
£1.8810	\$1.8810
£1.8810	\$1.8810
£1.8810	\$1.8810
£1.8810	\$1.8810
£1.8810	\$1.8810
£1.8810	\$1.8810

GOLD

London	New York
£452.70	\$452.70
£452.70	\$452.70
£452.70	\$452.70
£452.70	\$452.70
£452.70	\$452.70
£452.70	\$452.70
£452.70	\$452.70
£452.70	\$452.70
£452.70	\$452.70
£452.70	\$452.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (June)	\$16.50/bbl (\$16.75)
Crude oil	\$16.50/bbl (\$16.75)
Crude oil	\$16.50/bbl (\$16.75)
Crude oil	\$16.50/bbl (\$16.75)
Crude oil	\$16.50/bbl (\$16.75)
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Crude oil	\$16.50/bbl (\$16.75)

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

For up-to-the-second prices on over 10,000 shares, unit trusts and bonds, funds and other investments, ring Stockwatch on 0898 141 141.

Recent additions include: Barnett Kinnings (02923), Carbo (02924), Colt Industries (07931), Sotheby's Holdings (02922), Fifth Thymorton Co 74% Conv (02908), Serco (02874), Lincoln House (02852), Lincoln House warrants (02863), TR Technology Zero Dividend Prof (02846).

Details, page 26.

£1bn jump in valuation for Land Secs

By Colin Campbell

Land Securities stunned the City with a property revaluation showing a £1 billion increase to more than £4 billion in the space of a year.

Its share price rose by 36p to a peak of 599p in aggressive trading yesterday, leading other property shares higher after it reported a 37 per cent jump in its net asset value to 668p a share in the year to end-March.

Mr Peter Hunt, chairman and chief executive of Britain's largest property group, said the property market remained strong and assured shareholders that the group was financially sound and had not been hit by the fall-out from Big Bang.

Even after late profit-taking, the shares closed 33p higher at 596p. Land Securities has a property portfolio worth £4.02 billion - an increase of £1.01 billion on the balance sheet valuation a year earlier - and at the year-end contracted payments and authorized projects aggregated £435 million.

The valuations impressed City analysts, who have now re-rated the sector as a whole and upgraded their estimates of the net worth of individual property companies.

Land Securities, which raised further finance during the year, was holding short-term deposits of £426.6 million at year end. Gross interest receivable rose from £14.5 million to £37.8 million and a further improvement in rental income - up from £175.8 million to £196.8 million - lifted group pretax profits to £133.6 million from £120.6 million.

The final dividend rises from 7.75p to 8.85p a share, making 12.5p (11p) for the year, covered 1.52 times against 1.62 times previously.

In his first year as chairman, Mr Hunt says the foundations which have already established Land Securities as Britain's largest property group will be further built on, and the outlook is good.

New opportunities and areas are being examined, especially where the portfolio is under-represented, and an "eye will be kept on Europe before 1992," although he said the group had done well so far by not going abroad.

Mr Hunt admitted that the group had looked at "various quoted companies" in the aftermath of the October crash, but meanwhile on its own account and with its own developments, it was successfully lining up future schemes.

The group would, however, keep its "eye on the ball" for acquisitions although there would always be a particular reference to quality and price.

After the Budget proposals, the capital gains liability - should property assets be sold - would ease from £780 million to £430 million.

Mr Hunt gave warning that the effect of the large development programme was to slow down the rate of pretax profits growth. However, this is likely to be temporary, and there should be no threat to dividends. If necessary, the dividend cover could be reduced.

He said the latest 12-month period was one of the most active for many years. There was exceptional growth in rental values, particularly in the City, West End and Victoria in London, and that the group had "further major developments" planned.

Total borrowings at year-end stood at £919.9 million, representing 27 per cent of shareholders' funds. Net borrowings are, however, only about 15 per cent of shareholders' funds, which still leaves room for increased gearing to finance developments and acquisitions.

The property market remains strong, despite City reservations about the possible effects of the stock market setback, and the group is confident that its development programme will be brought to a successful and profitable completion.

Fresh boost for pound from PSBR surplus

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

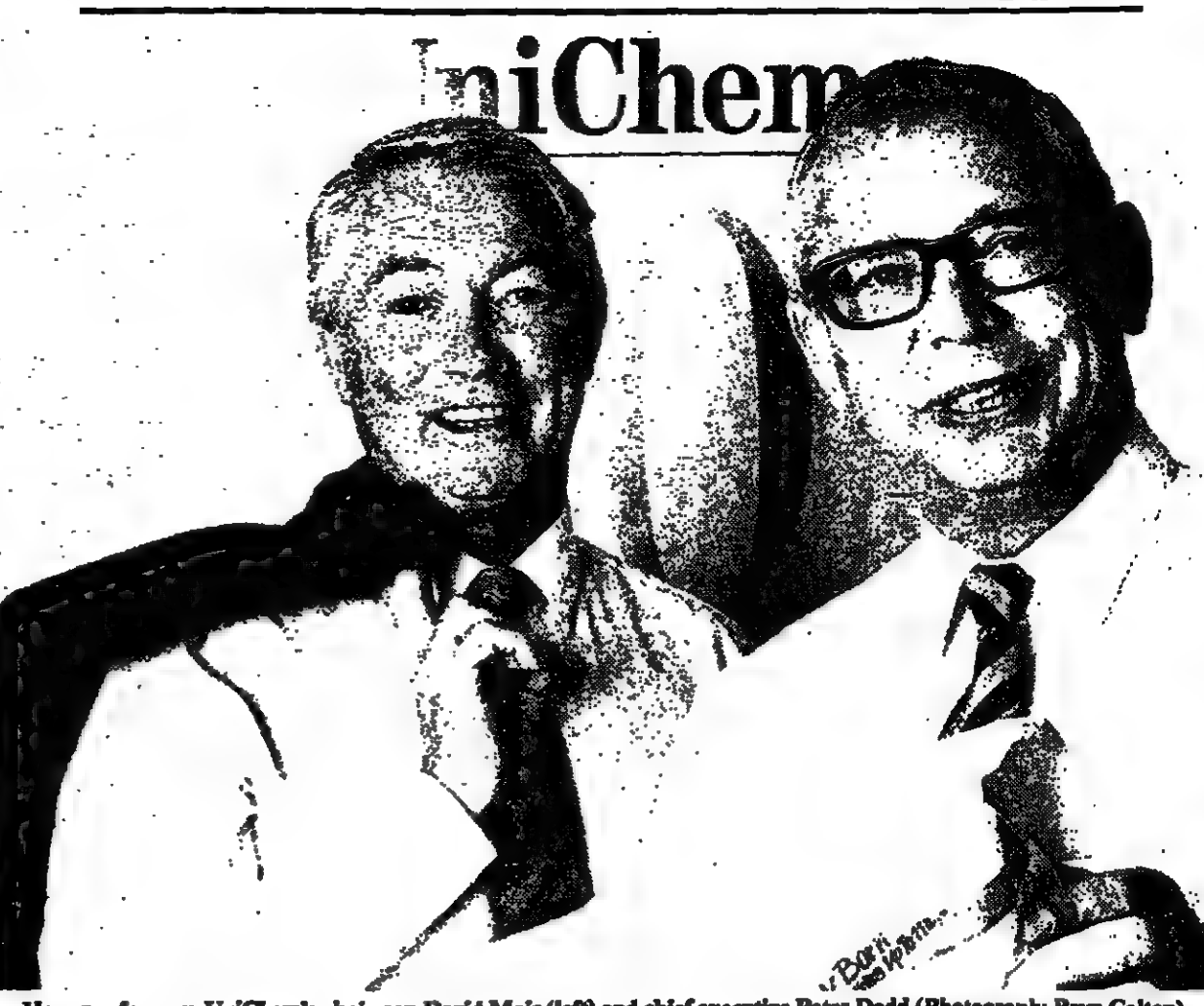
Britain began the new financial year with its public finances in substantial surplus, indicating a surplus for the year well above the £3 billion forecast by the Treasury.

The news put new life into the pound, which earlier had fallen back on profit-taking after Tuesday's base rate cut. Foreign traders were particularly impressed by the budget surplus and the pound recovered steadily from the time New York exchanges opened, to close in London 0.05 of a penny above the previous close at DM3.1749.

Against a fairly quiet dollar the pound closed in London 30 points below the previous close at \$1.8610 after dipping to \$1.8580. The effective rate index was 0.1 lower at 78.3.

Mr Peter Spencer of Credit

Dissident uses rulebook to block support



Happy - for now: UniChem's chairman David Mair (left) and chief executive Peter Dodd (Photograph: Bryn Colton)

UniChem share plan must go to ballot

By Michael Tate

The board of UniChem, the drug wholesaling co-operative, has been forced to go to a ballot of its entire membership of more than 4,000 independent chemists on its controversial share discount scheme, despite winning overwhelming support at the annual meeting yesterday.

About 150 of UniChem's customers/shareholders attended the meeting, which must have rated as one of the most unfriendly that this friendly society has seen.

On a show of hands the motion endorsing the scheme, which offers shares at discounted prices to new customers as part of a plan to fatten the business up for its metamorphosis to plc status and a flotation in 1990, would have swept through. Proxies carried the support to about 87 per cent of the total 56 per cent of votes cast.

However, Mr Philip Hunt, a Bristol pharmacist and one of a number of dissidents attending the meeting, used an obscure UniChem rule to demand successfully a full ballot of all members.

Mr Peter Dodd, the UniChem chief executive, who has masterminded the flotation plan, said: "I am very satisfied with the outcome."

Labour's MEPs in Rowntree slip-up

From Jonathan Bransford Strasbourg

The European Parliament yesterday rejected a motion to debate the Nestlé's battle for Rowntree after a number of British Labour MEPs mistakenly voted against it.

The motion was lost by one vote, after Labour members supported an emergency debate on the Middle East instead, not realising they were being given a choice between the two issues and it was their second vote against an emergency debate on Rowntree.

A few minutes earlier, they had rejected a similar motion for fear of losing the chance of a debate on the P&O ferry strike.

In the event that, too, failed to gather enough support from continental members and has been wiped from the agenda.

Labour's parliamentary leader, Mr David Martin, afterwards explained that while he had personally voted in favour of a debate on Rowntree, many of his fellow members had voted against "in the confusion."

Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, the Conservative member whose York constituency includes Rowntree, yesterday said Labour had "shot itself in the foot."

"It is tragic that we have lost the opportunity at a critical time to get this issue aired in the one elected forum that has the power to express public opinion throughout the whole of Europe."

Senior members of the European Commission will today be urged to help Rowntree in its battle to keep it out of the hands of Nestlé.

Mr Kenneth Dixon, the Rowntree chairman, will meet Commission members to discuss the issue.

Bass and Whitbread brew up profits rise

By Carol Ferguson

Bass and Whitbread, the brewing giants, revealed healthy profit rises yesterday in line with market expectations.

Pretax profits at Whitbread rose 17.8 per cent to £187 million for the full year to February 27.

Bass beat forecasts, increasing its pretax profits for the six months to April 9 by 33.6 per cent to £210 million. However, if an exceptional gain of £28.3 million on the sale of some of its continental hotels is excluded, the results match expectations.

The shares of both brewers were knocked in yesterday's weak market. Whitbread lost 12p to close at 296p, while Bass slipped 13p to 819p.

Whitbread increased its full-year dividend by 18.5 per cent to 10.55p net while Bass's interim dividend was raised by 12.5 per cent to 5.4p net.

Mr Peter Jarvis, the Whitbread managing director, said the highlight of the year had been the change in the company's nature. "We have a steady and good beer business," he said, "but our food business is booming, and sales of wines and soft drinks are going up and up and up."

"Every day last year, we acquired one new retail site for pubs, shops, hotels and restaurants," he said. "We also refurbished 400 pubs, more than one a day, and we will refurbish a similar number this year."

He said the beer market had grown by 1 per cent last year, and Whitbread had traded in line with the market. He said retailing profits had grown at 20 per cent a year for the past three years, despite heavy revenue investment in new pubs and restaurants.

Bass volumes increased well ahead of a buoyant market. Mr Ian Prosser, the chairman, said: "Carling Black Label and the Tennent range made excellent progress."

The company's considerable investment in pub retailing and the extension to the catering businesses, led by Toby Restaurants, produced good results, he added.

Lawson call for close watch on resurgence of inflation

From David Smith, Economics Correspondent, Paris

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, gave a warning yesterday of a resurgence in world inflation, saying that the situation needed to be watched very closely. He refused to be drawn on the pound, after his "victory" on the issue over the Prime Minister.

Addressing the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development ministerial meeting, he said that demand in the United States was growing "uncomfortably fast" but did not specify what action, if any, might be needed to reduce it.

Mindful of the reaction that his reported remarks had on world stock markets last week, the Chancellor also refused to say whether he thought higher

world interest rates would be necessary.

"I think the situation is being watched very carefully," he said.

Other finance ministers at the meeting, including the newly appointed M. Pierre Bérégovoy of France and Mr Michael Wilson of Canada, also sounded a warning about the inflationary dangers in the world economy.

But Dr Beryl Sprinkel, the chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisors, said that there was no problem with the growth of domestic demand in the United States and that an acceleration in inflation is not a danger.

Stonewalled on questions

War of words over £200m contract

MoD hovers over Rolls-GE dogfight

By Derek Harris, Industries Editor

An increasingly bitter battle for more than £200 million worth of aero engine business should be resolved shortly by a decision from the Ministry of Defence crucially involving Rolls-Royce, the British aero engine maker.

There are two bidders for an MoD helicopter engines contract: Rolls-Royce Turbomeca which is an Anglo-French venture, and General Electric of the United States (GE). The contract, for about 500 engines to power the Anglo-Italian EH101 helicopter for the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, could be worth in excess of £200 million.

The deal is vital, for both British and American governments. Rolls-Royce has accused GE of trying to drive it out of the business. Mr Gordon Page, commercial director of Rolls' military engine group, said: "They want us out of the business and the rest of Europe with us. That has been their plan for a long time." Mr Page

said it was crucial that Rolls-Royce Turbomeca, a 50/50 joint venture, secured the British contract with its RTM 322 engine, which both companies had been developing for the past eight years. The cost so far has been put at £72 million of which about £24 million has been funded by the British and French defence ministries.

The MoD is estimated to have put in about £16 million but whether its investment will in any way influence its decision over who gets the helicopter engine contract still remains to be seen. Rolls has traditionally supplied UK defence needs.

Rolls-Royce said the joint venture currently had four other potential sales orders in sight for its RTM 322. But Mr Page said it would be extremely difficult to sell the RTM 322 to other countries if the British Government decided to reject its bid for the EH101 engines.

One of the potential orders is from the US government, which needs 746 engines to power the Black Hawk and Sea Hawk helicopters, built by United Technologies Corp's UTX Sikorsky unit. The company is also competing against GE's CT7 engine on this order. This and the MoD order are worth nearly £500 million before adding in the value of spares and replacement engines.

Rolls-Royce said the US defence department is expected to award the contract at the end of this month. Britain's defence ministry could make its decision in June. Rolls-Royce Turbomeca is also seeking an order from the Canadian government for between 150 and 200 RTM 322 engines to power the EH101 helicopter, being developed by Westland and Gruppo Agusta.

It sees long-term potential with a requirement in the late 1990s for 1,471 engines to power the European NH90 Nato helicopter being developed by France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

LOVES ntain

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hotel and casino deal by Pleasurama

Pleasurama, the expanding hotels and leisure group, has made two more acquisitions — a hotel in Rochdale, Greater Manchester, and a casino and leisure complex in Ostend, Belgium. It is paying £1.3 million for the Norton Grange Hotel, of which £800,000 is accounted for by the assumption by Pleasurama of existing debts and the balance by a new shares issue. It is to spend another £250,000 on the hotel.

The Belgian purchase, the group's second toehold on the continent, is of 90 per cent of the Kursaal casino and entertainment complex, for an undisclosed sum understood to be less than £1 million. Its first continental acquisition was the Thelma Palace Hotel, also in Ostend.

Coal output 'must rise'

Mr Michael Spicer, the Under Secretary of State for Energy, who is responsible for the coal industry, gave a warning yesterday that productivity must continue to rise. He said: "The coal industry is losing its label as a national liability and is beginning to be seen as a modern, highly competitive and efficient industry."

Margins hit at Cakebread

Cakebread, Robey, the builders' and timber merchant, saw pretax profits slip from £859,000 to £554,000 in the year to December 31, hit by pressure on margins and by costs associated with an abortive takeover approach. Turnover rose from £22.61 million to £24.38 million. A final dividend of 3p makes an unchanged total of 3.8p.

J Foster profits soar

Shares in John Foster, the Bradford spinner and cloth maker, gained 9p to 177p yesterday on news that it had reported sharp rises in profits and turnover, helped by growing exports. In spite of rising wool prices, taxable profits soared from £507,000 to £2.22 million in the year to February 26 with sales up from £20.2 million to £27 million.

Foster suffered a setback two years ago when adverse currency movements and reduced demand from Hong Kong and the Middle East nudged it into the red. But it is confident about prospects for the current year, due both to its strong order book and to improvements in manufacturing efficiency. The final dividend goes up from 2.5p to 3.25p, making 4.75p (3.5p) for the year.

Lords ruling for tin debts

Creditors seeking to recover £900 million of debts from the insolvent International Tin Council have been granted permission by the Court of Appeal to appeal against last month's High Court ruling to the House of Lords. The court had ruled that the ITC's sovereign backers were not liable for its debts under English law.

Interim surge at Baggeridge

Strong construction demand combined with a mild winter to more than double first half profits at Baggeridge Brick from £1.2 million to £2.6 million. Sales in the six months to end-March rose by 60 per cent to £10.7 million and the interim dividend was raised from 0.75p to 1.25p. Orders are ahead of last year.

Benlox in £3m sale of two offshoots

By Martin Waller

The two men who brought Mann & Co. the estate agents, to the market in 1985 have re-emerged as the purchasers of an employment agency and a firm of headhunters from Benlox Holdings, the civil engineer and investment dealer.

Mr Jeremy Agace and Mr Paul Locke, Mann's chairman and chief executive respectively before it was sold to Hambro Countrywide in 1986, have teamed up with Mr Anthony Pidgeley, managing director of the Berkeley Group housebuilder, in the current deal. The three are paying £3.1 million for Personnel Selection Associates and Executive Services.

PSA operates as an employment agency from 14 branches in the South of England, making pretax profits of £335,000 in the 17 months to end-December. Executive Services, whose profits totalled £12,000 in the same period, provides training and recruitment services.

The three have picked Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank which brought Mann to the stock market, as adviser. A spokesman for the bank conceded that the new venture was not yet of Blue Arrow proportions, but said his clients wanted to keep a low profile while they built up the business.

For Benlox, the sale is part of its policy of selling off the parts of the business which do not fit with its aim of concentrating on property and construction.

Benlox is retaining an option, which can be exercised within five years, to buy back for £290,000 10 per cent of the two companies it is selling, should they gain a stock market quotation or be sold for at least £5 million.

Brewers, cheap and still fizzy

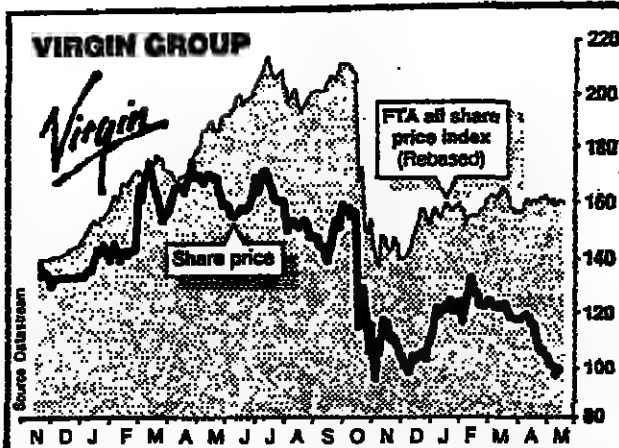
Bass, Allied and Whitbread are the giants of the British brewing industry. But the greatest of these is Bass.

Lager sales at both Bass and Whitbread are growing in line with the market at between 4 and 5 per cent a year, but Whitbread's ale sales are declining on falling ale consumption. Bass alone is showing itself capable of maintaining its ale sales. As a result, in the six months to April 9, Bass's total beer volumes grew by 4.5 per cent against a market rise of 3.5 per cent. Not only, therefore, can Bass claim to sell 50 per cent more beer than anyone else in Britain but it is inexorably increasing its 22 per cent market share. Allied, the second-biggest brewer, has 14 per cent of the market.

Its sheer size means Bass can enjoy economies of scale and production efficiencies to the extent that it was able to increase its interim brewing and retailing profits by 18.8 per cent to £159 million. The comparable figure for Whitbread, in third spot, which revealed its full-year figures yesterday, is a 13.4 per cent jump to £183.5 million. Within this total, its beer division profits rose 8.7 per cent to £11.4 million while the retailing side — pubs, restaurants and leisure — rose 20 per cent to £83.1 million.

It is more difficult to make straight comparisons on retailing as Bass does not give a detailed analysis of its figures. Whitbread scores with its big restaurant theme brands such as Pizza Hut, the market leader, and Beefeater. Bass, on the other hand, has a superior pub portfolio and a better integrated operation. It has less need to standardize its pubs than the other leading brewers.

However, all the brewers with retailing outlets will benefit from the changing habits of the British diner. We are eating more restaurant



meals every year, yet Britain still ranks low in the world league of diners-out, leaving plenty of room for growth.

Last year, Whitbread's Beefeater restaurants saw like-for-like covers rise by 10 per cent. This year, due to site acquisitions already made, it will open more than 20 Beefeaters and a similar number of Pizza Huts.

Whitbread's Achilles' heel may turn out to be its international wines and spirits business. Mr John Dunsmore, brewing analyst at County NatWest WoodMac, says: "To survive in a mature market, you need to be either a niche business or competitively dominant, not in the middle where Whitbread is."

Hence Whitbread's decision to sell its commodity spirits business, Fleischmann Distilling Company.

Whitbread, firmly in the family's control, can never be a takeover candidate. Nevertheless, the prospective multiple of 8.7 on forecast pretax profits this year of £225 million looks too low, while the 5.1 per cent yield is alluring.

Bass, the quality company in the sector, also looks cheap. Mr Dunsmore is forecasting £445 million pretax for Bass's full year, giving a prospective multiple of 9.6, a rating which

fails to reflect either its consistently superior earnings record or its prospects.

Virgin Group

Mr Richard Branson's ambition to see Virgin Group's share price above 200p received a setback yesterday.

The shares fell 8p to a new low at 92p on interim profits well below expectations and the forecast that full-year profits would fall short of the pretax £27.7 million made last year. Analysts had been expecting about £33 million.

Heavy investment in the US in both the new record company and Virgin, the film and video distribution business, caused the upset. Operating profits were 13.6 per cent higher at £17.7 million, but expansion caused £2.5 million of the total interest charge of £3.25 million.

The American record company has taken off faster than expected and the plan to spend \$30 million (£16 million) over three years has been accelerated, although total spending is not expected to rise. Operating losses are running at an annualized rate of between £5 million and £10 million, but the breakthrough to profit should be achieved next year.

Margins in the commun-

ications division were lower, due to the pace of new developments, and the second half will produce less than previously expected.

New developments include the expansion of Virgin's American subsidiary, the acquisition of WH Allen and Mastertronic, the publishing businesses, development of television services in Los Angeles and London and the increased participation in Super Channel, the European satellite television channel.

The music and retail and property divisions made operating profits 59 per cent higher at £4.3 million. Its big stores are clearly a hit and Virgin will continue to open them around the world as shop windows for its products. However, the 70 smaller stores are not making adequate returns and Virgin is looking at joint ventures as a way of boosting their profitability.

Virgin has invested £100 million in new ventures since coming to the stock market in November, 1986. The cash outflow is impeding profits growth in the short term, but the company should reap the rewards in the longer term.

The prospective p/e ratio at 12.5 leaves little room for an immediate re-rating, but with £40 million pretax profits in sight next year there is scope for longer-term recovery.

Thomas Robinson

Special situation spotters should cast an eye over the bid battle for the John Crowther Group, now entering its critical phase.

Two enterprising management teams at Coloroll and Thomas Robinson Group are scrapping for the right to restructure it, and things are going Coloroll's way.

It has the backing of the Crowther board and can speak for 33 per cent of its equity. Robinson's bid has been hit by the failure of the sub-underwriting for its cash alternative and its shares have slumped from a 47.5p peak to 33.8p.

If Robinson's bid fails, as looks likely, its shares will not stay at such low levels. Robinson shares are selling at a mere 8.1 times expected earnings — a bargain rating for a growth stock. It will not last long.

Avon Rubber

The restructuring at Avon Rubber has already made a significant difference to earnings growth and profitability but the full impact of the changes have still to come through to the bottom line.

Operating margins have more than doubled in the last five years from 3.1 to 6.9 per cent. But with a rationalization programme which will not be complete until the year-end, there is scope for a further widening of margins.

The industrial polymers business has been the mainstay of the group in recent years. This counterbalanced the problems in the tyre business, where industry overcapacity and a lack of market position led to a volatile performance, at times leading to losses.

Even now, industrial polymers earns 55 per cent of group profits from 25 per cent of sales. It will always be an intrinsically more profitable operation than tyres, but the aim is to achieve a more equal balance.

A reorganization programme has just been implemented which should noticeably improve results. Earnings is about 10 per cent.

Avon is on target to make at least £17 million in the full year. The shares are rated close to the market multiple, but the full recovery potential is not yet reflected in the price.

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Virgin Group strikes a dull note with fall to £14.45m

By Alison Eadie
Virgin Group, the music and communications company run by Mr Richard Branson, disappointed the stock market with a pre-tax profit of £14.45 million on continuing business in the six months to the end of January, a fall of 5 per cent. Turnover rose 21 per cent to £195.2 million.

Earnings per share were 4.13p against 6.37p and the interim dividend was 0.85p.

Mr Branson attributed the profit shortfall to heavy investment in new ventures, particularly in America. He said the company was not prepared to think short-term just because it had changed from private to public status.

Operating losses from the new American record company held back operating profit in the worldwide music division to an unchanged £11.5 million. Mr Branson said Virgin had secured good people to run the record company and it was already having success in signing new artists, including Ziggy Marley, son of Bob Marley, the late reggae star.

Elsewhere in the music division there were successful albums from a wide variety of stars, including Bryan Ferry, Johnny Hates Jazz and T'Pau.

Mr Branson also revealed that Virgin had had eight approaches for its 70 smaller record shops, which have been underperforming. Discussions are in progress about a joint

venture, which should come to fruition in the next three months.

Mr Branson said up to now the company had been a collector, not a seller, of businesses and a joint venture would be his preferred route. He confirmed there had been an approach from WH Smith, the newspaper, but not for a joint venture deal.

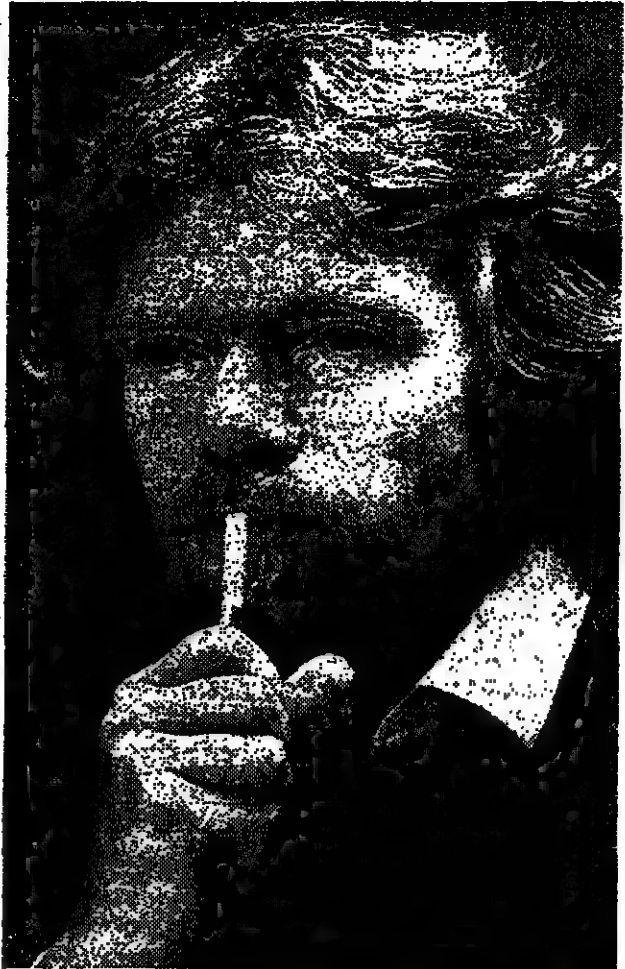
The programme of opening Virgin megastores worldwide will continue, with one having just opened in Sydney, and another scheduled for Paris. The megastores will help promote Virgin's name and products from its music and communications divisions.

Mr Branson affirmed his faith in the future of Super Channel, the European satellite television channel where Virgin has just raised its stake to between 25 and 30 per cent.

Virgin now has the largest single stake of five shareholders and has the right to appoint the chairman. It has not lost money on its investment so far, Mr Branson said.

Virgin's shares fell 8p yesterday to close at a new low of 92p. The company came to the stock market in November 1986 at 140p, the striking price of the tender offer. The shares subsequently rose to a high of 172p.

Times, page 26



Thinking ahead: Richard Branson was in pensive mood yesterday, after the results (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Rechem is valued at £51.8m

By Martin Walker

Mr Graham Searle, who helped to set up the Friends of the Earth environmental group, has become a non-executive director of Rechem Environmental Services, the waste management company. He joins before its stock market flotation valuing it at £51.8 million.

The company was purchased from BET in a 1985 buy-out by Mr Malcolm Lee, the managing director, and other management for just £1.8 million.

Following the placing by Lazard Brothers, Mr Lee and Mr Richard Biffa, the chairman, will have 27.66 per cent and 28.42 per cent of the shares, which at the 1985 placing price will be worth more than £14 million each.

The directors and their families are selling 4.11 million shares and Rechem is raising £2.5 million after costs by placing 1.55 million more.

The placing represents 21.3 per cent of the issued share capital.

NAB seeks more UK buys

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

National Australia Bank, which bought Midland's Scottish and Irish banking operations last year, yesterday said it was considering further acquisitions in Britain.

To strengthen its capital base and improve its positioning for acquisitions, NAB is also raising £603 million (£247 million) in a one-for-five rights issue. This follows the £432 million fundraising exercise to cover the

acquisition of Clydesdale Bank and Northern Bank. NAB said it had received higher-than-expected earnings from the banks since they had become part of the group.

Mr Nobby Clark, NAB's chairman, said: "We want to grow organically domestically but we also would like to grow by further acquisitions offshore. It could be in the UK or the US."

NAB wanted to be part of

the global restructuring going on in the banking industry. A new acquisition, he added, could be twice the size of the Midland purchases, a parcel of smaller deals or part of a much larger business.

NAB's financial position was improved by better-than-expected results, which boosted profits for the six months to March 31 from £153.6 million to £268.6 million.

Marler speculation on £6.8m buy

By Cliff Feltham

There was increased speculation over the future of Marler Estates last night after Mr David McErlain, who runs Anglo United, the real estate and distribution group, disclosed he had spent nearly £6.8 million building up a 14.5 per cent stake in the company. Marler owns Queen's Park Rangers and controls both Chelsea and Fulham football grounds.

The holding was acquired by Mr McErlain's offshore investment vehicle, American

Real Property, which also owns 27 per cent of Anglo United.

Robert Fleming, the merchant bank acting for McErlain, said its client had taken the stake purely for investment purposes and he had no intention of bidding for Marler.

The shares were understood to have been acquired at close to the current market price of 64p, up 2p on the day. They were thought to have come from a number of sellers,

including Mr Tony Cole's Bestwood group.

The largest shareholder in Marler with 28 per cent is Mr David Thompson, ranked as one of Britain's wealthiest men who built up the Hillsdown Holdings food and furniture conglomerate, before selling almost half his stake and stepping down as joint chairman to concentrate on his property interests.

Hillsdown is also the largest shareholder in Anglo United with 29.9 per cent.

News Corporation profit at £119m

By Graham Searle, Financial Editor

Strong progress in the first three months of 1988 has accelerated profit growth at The News Corporation, the international media group headed by Mr Rupert Murdoch.

In the nine months to March, earnings after tax grew by 25.4 per cent to £286.7 million (£189.1 million).

Trading profit rose by 22.2 per cent to £209 million, compared with a 17.1 per cent rise after six months.

In the United Kingdom, the newspaper division, which includes The Times, continued strong growth in revenue and profit. UK profits rose by 29 per cent to £255 million over nine months with an £890 million contribution in the latest quarter.

There were also improved third-quarter profits of £100 million (£82 million in 1987) from the group's interests in the United States. But these still showed an 8 per

cent drop over nine months to £292 million.

Two Twentieth Century Fox films, The Fly and Aliens, produced unusually high profits last year. But overall results from the group's seven television stations were still below expectations.

In Australia and the Pacific Basin, profits jumped from £67 million to £162 million mainly due to recent acquisitions. As at the halfway stage, a big

increase in interest costs from £269 million to £453 million produced a fall in pretax profits to £366 million, but the drop was reduced from 8.8 per cent after six months to 4.2 per cent after nine.

Much of the extra interest arises from replacing preference shares issued for an earlier US acquisition by loans. There is a corresponding £89 million drop in preference dividends at the earnings level.

Conroy's healthy outlook

If any employees of minerals exploration group Conroy Petroleum — which completes its graduation from the OTC market to the USM on Monday — should injure themselves on the job, they need not look far for help. For both the chairman and deputy chairman — brothers Richard and Desmond Conroy — are doctors. And they must surely be the most entrepreneurial doctors in the British Isles. For Desmond, aged 62, manages a deputizing service for GPs in Manchester, covering 2 million patients — the brothers pioneered the concept of deputizing in the 1960s — and Richard, aged 54, very much an executive chairman, still manages to work five days a week as a professor of physiology at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. "I'm regularly in the office from 8am until 10pm or 11pm, six or seven days a week," he says. A specialist in circadian — "body clock" — rhythms, he once carried out a study of the effects of jet lag on the senior executives of the top 100 companies in Britain and the US, publishing a book on the subject in 1970. "Meeting the top echelons of business like that allowed me to pick up a few business tips," he says. "It's not unknown for doctors to succeed in business — just look at Armand Hammer." Indicating that there really is no end to his talents, he was also once a senator in the Irish Parliament, acting as foreign affairs spokesman in the Upper House.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Yacht a lot of bother

Aspiring Olympic yachtsman Roddy Bridge, head of research at Swedish broker Carnegie International until he resigned three months ago, has his baggage bowled out and is seeking temporary use of a car. Bridge, aged 32, who was also once a building sector analyst at Laing & Crickshaw, has had his rigorous training schedule jeopardized by his wife Jonica, who wrote off his Vauxhall Cavalier at the weekend. "It will be months before we get the insurance money to buy a new one, and he desperately needs to tow his boat to the jetty in Holland on Saturday — it will be his last chance to train before the British Olympic trials in Weymouth next month," says a distraught Jonica. Bridge, who resigned to work full-time with his Olympic Finn boat, is planning to make a return to the City after Seol, or earlier if he fails, to make the grade...

Top temps

Those mavericks attempting to keep score in the Square Mile's job loss stakes are about to have their sums further complicated. Temporary staff specialist Manpower — part of Tony Berry's Blue Arrow empire — reveals that a growing number of redundant City professionals are now happily employed as temporaries.



...and the Chancellor and Prime Minister lived happily ever after.

To cater for this new breed, Manpower is starting up a financial division finding temporary accountants, credit clerks, loan advisers, foreign exchange settlement experts, confirmation clerks and other experienced specialists for City firms. It will in effect be launched by Don Hanson, managing partner of accountancy firm Arthur Andersen, at a lunch today. "This trend has been developing for some time — it's just that no one has talked about it," Hanson tells me. "An increasing number of companies are choosing to shrink their permanent staff to a core group of wealth creators, and buy in specialist help as and when they need it."

City men a race apart

Poor Moorays who will be desk-bound in the City on Derby Day have thought of a splendid wheeze — to hold their own race evening that night. The venue is the Captain's Room at Lloyd's, with tweeds and trilbies the order of the day, and the races will all be on film. The City's own huntin', shootin' and fishin' brigade is behind the event, on June 1, in aid of the Newmarket Beagles, which faces an annual bill of £6,000 and has already run through the £3,500 it raised at its hunt ball in November. So popular has the new hunt proved that the Derby Day event is expected to attract 1,000 punters. A string of City firms has offered to sponsor races, and a number of witty names have been chosen for the 48 horses on sale at £20 a time. Already in training are Creative Accounting by Profits out of Nowhere, and The Arbitrageur by Trading Profits out of Takeovers. Any advance?

Midlander Paul Burgess, 39, has three in the Institutional Investor league table of motor sector analysts when he worked for Birmingham broker Albert E Sharp two years ago. I, hear, about to resurface in London at American securities house Merrill Lynch. After a short spell at Dutch bank EBC Amro, whose plans for a sales and research team seem to have foundered, Burgess will be the sole member of Merrill's motor research team — a new area of research for the company.

Carol Leonard

Herring set for windfall

A massive rating revaluation of commercial properties throughout England and Wales in 1990 is expected to produce a windfall for Herring Son & Daw, the commercial estate agent coming to the stock market with a price of £15 million.

Herring expects to handle thousands of appeals by its clients against the new assessments — the first since 1973. Rental values are likely to rise an average of seven times.

It is placing 27 per cent of its shares through Hoare Govett at 150p. The £2.7 million raised will go towards setting up systems to handle the increased workload. Last year Herring made a pretax profit of £1.09 million on turnover of £5.58 million. It forecasts a minimum £800,000 for this half year.

Levi launch

Levi Strauss is launching 30 franchise shops in Britain with the first opening in Leamington Spa next week. Levi, the world's biggest clothing manufacturer, operates 20 concessions in fashion outlets in Britain but most of its goods are sold through wholesalers.

Wooltons buy

Wooltons Betterware, the Birmingham soft furnishings group, has made its first acquisition since its disastrous USM debut in 1986, when 84 per cent of the issue was left with the underwriters. It has paid £220,000 for a private direct mail company, Petworth House, which sells sports and leisure equipment.

Ocean slumps

A 500 per cent depreciation in the Brazilian cruzado hit Ocean Wilsons (Holdings), the Brazilian tugboat operator and investment holding company, in the year to end-December. Pretax profits slipped to £4.69 million from £6.19 million last time, on turnover halved to £34.80 million from £69.67 million. A final dividend of 2p holds the total payment at 2.5p.

Swiss options

The world's first fully-automated futures and options exchange, SOFEX, opens today, after several postponements, in three Swiss cities — Zurich, Basel and Geneva — initially offering options on 11 Swiss shares.

Diploma rises

Diploma, the electronic components group, is raising its interim dividend from 1.5p to 2p a share after pretax profits of £9.08 million compared with £6.27 million. Turnover in the six months ended March rose from £50.9 million to £61.1 million.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Land Securities moves the property mountain

It is a decade and a half since Land Securities released a revaluation as unexpectedly bullish as yesterday's. That valuation signalled the top of the property market, and was followed by the Great Crash which claimed a whole raft of secondary banks and the property companies to which they had overlent.

That 1973 valuation was carried out by Knight Frank & Rutley and carried Land Secs portfolio through the billion-pound level, marking the company as the world's largest. The latest valuation was carried out by the same firm, and takes the group's properties clear of £4 billion.

The effect on the stock market was the same, separated by 15 years. The sector went better, much better. But, six months after the 1973 valuation, the equity market had begun to realise the ball was over, and Land Secs was buying in its own convertible stock in an effort to keep its share price alive.

The latest valuation really is gripping stuff. There is an underlying growth during the year of 28 per cent, more than double the 11.8 per cent increase in the previous year, making a compound rate of growth of more than 43 per cent in two years. The latest figure is soundly enough based. It depends not on trimming yields but on rental growth, and at 28 per cent is bang in line with the Hillier Parker rental survey. Such unanimity is comforting, to say the least, and the market took great comfort.

Property is, of course, the ultimate laggard in the business cycle. When the liquid markets are going down, property

is still going up. The indications are that this will continue at least for the next year. Many funds will consider themselves underweight in property and we could see as much as £500 million going into investment property each quarter as institutions build up their weightings.

Detail of the Land Secs revaluation shows that the best growth came in the City and West End London office markets, with retail showing only about half the office rate of increase. In the post-crash environment, inevitably the City projects have been shaded a little in valuation terms, but the company has not gone for football pitch-sized dealing rooms but stuck to its tradition of good quality space in the best locations. It has around a million square feet of space under development, of which 650,000 are in the City.

In the current year, if interest rates really are on the way down then the average yield in the property market could easily shade down from its current 7.4 per cent to below 7 per cent, which could add between 5 per cent and 10 per cent to capital values even with zero rental growth. Given the increased institutional interest, there could even be a yield shift approaching a full point.

But the party is again nearing its end. The interval is over, and while the final curtain is unlikely to come down as dramatically in 1990 as it did in 1973, the graph is set to flatten if not fall.

Meanwhile, great sport is to be had in property shares and when bid does turn to offer, Land Secs is still the safest house in the sector.

A case of non disclosure

The sudden emergence from obscurity of Britain's 28 statutory water companies had already provided a pioneering test case for the City Takeover Panel. Now it has revealed an extraordinary anomaly in company law.

The statutory companies have become the object of frenzied stake-building by French water companies and construction interests, but have inadvertently been excluded from legal provisions to stop nominee companies gaining control by stealth. The ubiquitous Lord Young has now been asked to take urgent action to give them the same protection as any public limited company.

Under the 1985 Companies Act, directors of a company can require nominees on their share register to reveal who the beneficial shareholders are, under pain of losing their rights. Stakes of more than 5 per cent must also be disclosed. But statutory water companies are not registered under the Act, so these conditions do not apply.

Derek Connolly of merchant bankers Brown Shipley, who advises the Eastbourne Waterworks, has now brought this out into the open. Earlier this year a Swiss bank nominee company built up a 15 per cent stake in Eastbourne, later

split between Bank of New York Nominees and New Court Nominees, a company operated by N M Rothschild. But Eastbourne's directors have never been able to find out who the shares ate held for.

"If the market does not know about this, it should," says Mr Connolly. Since the French water companies and their British partners have made no secret of their widespread purchases of all kinds of water shares and have generally consulted the companies concerned, this suggests another force is becoming involved in the great water scramble.

Ironically, the scramble anticipates legislation to privatize the water authorities, which would also allow statutory water companies to convert to plc's. But by then it will be too late to stop secret raiders.

Mr Connolly wants Lord Young to put a statutory instrument through parliament to give water and other statutory companies equal protection, since this is how they are governed. But he is not confident it can be done quickly. The DTI points out that it would require a debate in parliament. In any case, it does not seem to have come across the letter, which was sent last Friday.

LAND SECURITIES

Abridged Summary of Preliminary Results for the year ended 31st March, 1988

	31.3.88 £m	31.3.87 £m	Increase %
Total income	251.0	204.1	23.0
Net rents and interest receivable	207.4	164.0	26.5
Interest payable	73.8	43.4	70.0
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	133.6	120.6	10.8
Taxation	37.6	31.1	20.9
Profit available for distribution	96.0	89.5	7.3
Dividends per share paid (3.65p) and proposed (8.85p)	12.50p	11.00p	13.6
Earnings per share	19.07p	17.78p	7.3
Dividend cover — times	1.52	1.62	(6.2)
Properties (see Note 1)	4,020.4	3,009.8	33.6
Borrowings	919.9	537.3	71.2
Shareholders' Funds	3,363.7	2,456.4	36.9
Net assets per share (see Note 2)	668p	488p	36.9

Note 1: The Knight Frank & Rutley valuation of the portfolio, adjusted for expenditure on properties and sales during the year, showed a surplus on revaluation of £880.4m over that at March, 1987, an increase of 28.0% (1987 11.6%).

Note 2: The net assets per share calculation incorporates the valuation of properties at March, 1988 without adjusting for taxation in the event of properties being sold.

- * Current office developments total 1.2m sq. ft. net of offices.
- * Three major office developments pre-let subject in two cases to completion of legal formalities at rents totalling £20m per annum.
- * Over 450,000 sq. ft. of shopping space being developed.
- * 3m sq. ft. shopping centre refurbishment programme.
- * 4m sq. ft. potential out of town retail warehouses and food superstores of which 3m sq. ft. has been completed and is income producing.
- * Further major developments planned for the future.

The Report and Financial Statements containing an unqualified Report of the Auditors, the annual review, illustrations and photographs with additional information including a list of major properties, are due to be distributed on 31st May, 1988. Non-shareholders who would like a copy are requested to write to The Secretary,

LAND SECURITIES PLC, Landsec House, 21 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4PY

Control Techniques in £4.2m cash call

By Martin Waller

Control Techniques, the maker of variable speed electronic drives, is making a £4.2 million rights issue to fund expansion into the Italian market and further growth.

The company has also announced pre-tax profits up 77 per cent to £1.07 million in the six months to March 31 and a half-year dividend of 1.5p, up from 1.25p.

Shareholders will be offered one new share at 150p for every four held. The shares held steady at 185p on the announcement.

Control is paying £600,000 for 51 per cent of Soprel Servodrive of Italy. The balance of the company is retained by the three founders. The British firm is also putting in £1 million of additional capital, to allow expansion and the introduction of its own product range to Soprel's distribution network.

Mr Trevor Wheatley, the chairman of Control, said the Italian market for variable drives was similar in size to the British one, in which the company was doing £8 million worth of business a year.

Another £479,000 of the rights money is earmarked for deferred consideration payable to the vendors of the US group Burton Industries, bought in December 1986.

Aside from planned capital spending of about £650,000, the rest of the money will go towards reducing gearing to about 15 per cent and preparing for further expansion.

By Derek Harris and David Young

British industrialists are crossing their fingers that the cut in interest rates will be enough to moderate the strength of sterling which has been tough on exports. British export profits have been savaged as companies have tried to absorb at least some of the currency effects to keep prices competitive.

If sterling's high level persists it will undoubtedly damage the engineering industry's prospects just as it did in the early 1980s, said the Engineering Employers' Federation.

"We are glad that the reduction in interest rates has steadied sterling, which we believe has risen to unsustainable levels on the back of rumour, gossip and fancies rather than facts," the EEF said. If the sterling trend now reversed there should be little lasting damage, it added.

The downward move in interest rates was welcomed by the Confederation of British Industry which has become worried about the effects of a rapidly strengthening currency on company profits. Two of its members, one selling aeroplanes and the other cars, each lost £3 million in annual profits for every cent the dollar fell against sterling.

On the interest rate cut, Mr John Banham, the CBI director general, said: "This is a further welcome move along the path the CBI has long been advocating to help take the speculative heat out of sterling without running risks with inflation."

Industry says strong sterling has damaged profits

Rate cut rescue hope for exporters



Patrick Hayes: spending on marketing



Sir Peter Walters: currency link



John Banham: welcome move

The interest rate cut, as well as holding back the soaring pound, leading the banks to reduce the cost of borrowing, will reduce industry's costs by £125 million in a full year.

What high-flying sterling was putting at risk, industry has argued, is a widespread increase in exports expected this year.

Electrical and electronic en-

gineering products were expected to be the best growth performers, with forecasts of a 12 per cent rise this year to just over £15 billion. Total engineering exports are estimated to rise 10 per cent to £37.7 billion, says the EEF.

Mechanical engineering was expected to rise 9 per cent to nearly £10 billion, metal goods 8 per cent to nearly £1.4

billion, motor vehicles 10 per cent to just over £5.5 billion and other transport equipment, including aerospace and shipbuilding, nearly 7 per cent to almost £5.9 billion.

But the EEF forecasts were based on the assumption of a modest depreciation in sterling from the middle of last month.

Wedgwood, the chinaware

subsidiary of Waterford Crystal, chaired by Mr Patrick Hayes, is one manufacturer heavily reliant on exports, particularly to the US, which has been able to increase sales.

So far this year chinaware sales have been 10 to 12 per cent up on last year while Waterford's lead crystal glass sales have been almost 20 per cent higher.

However, the leading com-

Extra investment in marketing has been one reason and although there have been fewer American tourists to Britain, the numbers of Japanese visitors, also avid buyers of chinaware and glassware, have increased.

Among Britain's oil companies, only the explorers and producers, which do not have refineries to turn cheap dollar-denominated oil into expensive sterling-priced products, have been hit by sterling's strength. The latest figures from BP give an indication of how important the dollar-sterling link is to them.

Sir Peter Walters, the BP chairman, pointed out that in the first quarter of this year BP was paying and receiving an average of \$15.70 a barrel for its oil. On an average sterling-dollar exchange rate of \$1.80, this gave £8.70 a barrel. In the same period last year it was paying an average \$17.80 a barrel, which with a sterling-dollar average rate of \$1.53, meant it was paying and receiving £11.60 a barrel.

However, the leading companies such as BP, Esso, Shell, Mobil, Texaco, Conoco and Fina, as well as producing oil at a dollar-denominated price, refine it and sell it in the market for sterling.

Therefore, they make on the swings what they lose on the roundabouts. This is confirmed by record earnings from petro-chemical subsidiaries of BP and Shell. The chemicals they produce from cheap oil are sold in a market denominated in marks, and the pound now buys more marks than a year ago.

Lawson backing for farm reform

From David Smith Paris

Ministers of the industrialized countries will agree today to press ahead with the reform of agricultural policy and the elimination of wasteful farm subsidies. But there are signs that the process of reform will be painfully slow.

The US came to the ministerial meeting of the 24-nation Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development here determined to secure a commitment, notably from the EEC countries, that cuts in agricultural subsidies be given top priority.

The US delegation led by Mr James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, wanted the OECD meeting to give a strong signal to the mid-term review of the current round of Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) negotiations. The Gatt mid-term review, which will take place in Montreal in December, examines the progress of the current round of trade talks, which began in Uruguay in 1986.

The US call for action was backed by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, who said yesterday: "We have to seize the opportunity of the Gatt round to get on top of the chronic problems in world agriculture."

The Chancellor, drawing on OECD figures, said almost half farmers' incomes derived from government support, and that measures taken so far to reduce subsidies "are clearly not enough."

Car makers face difficult time in US

By Daniel Ward Motor Industry Correspondent

Britain's luxury car makers have all hedged against the weak dollar, having sold forward into the second half of 1989. But they face a difficult time in the US market as price discounting to boost sales is rife even among luxury cars. Jaguar and Volkswagen are the only European manufac-

turers to increase US sales in the first four months compared with last year.

Mr Malcolm Hart, director of sales and marketing at Rolls-Royce, confirms that the company has sold forward its dollar receipts for 1988 and a large part of 1989, and sales will remain profitable at the contracted exchange rate.

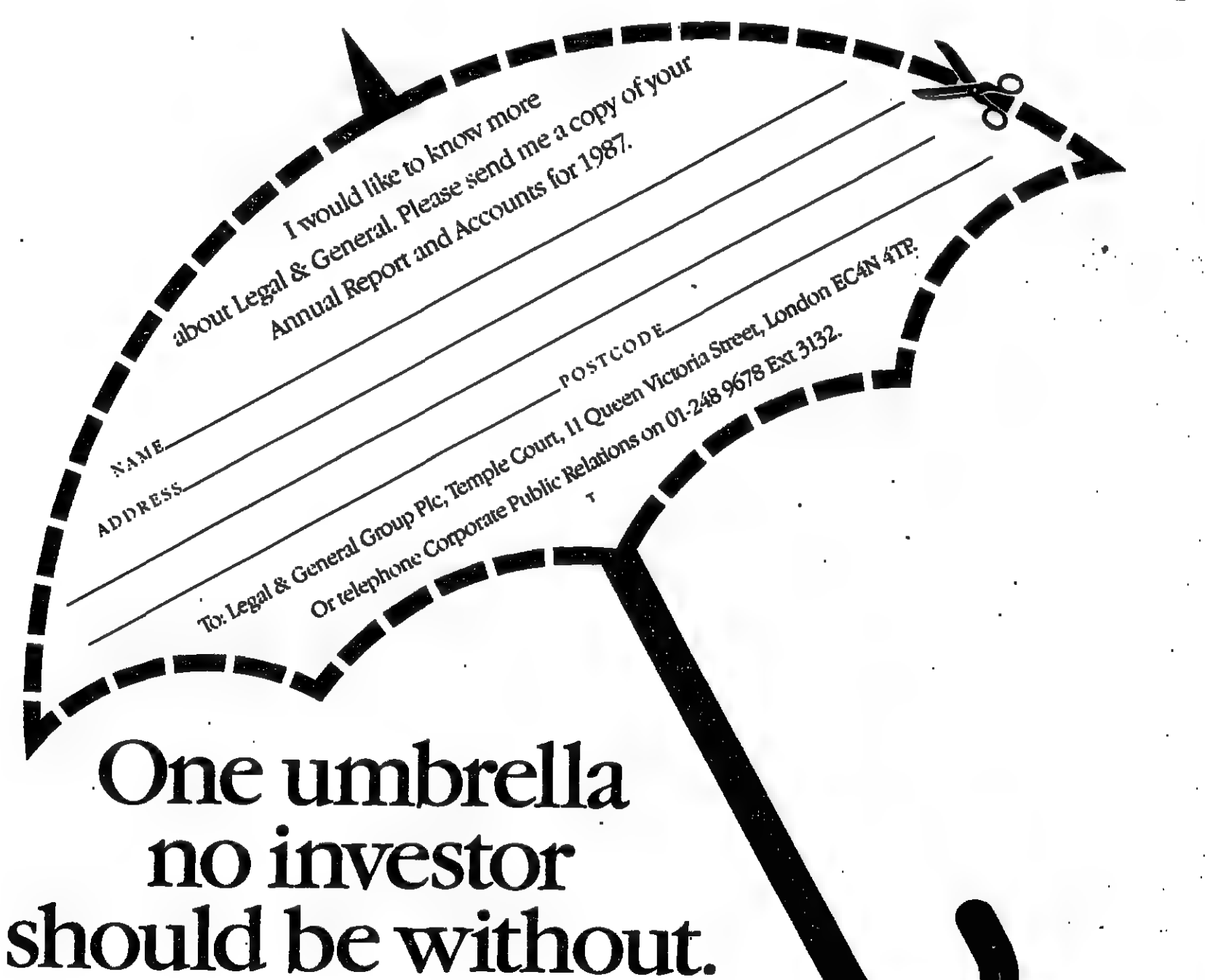
Currently 35 per cent of Rolls-Royce sales come from

America compared with almost 45 per cent for Jaguar. This year Lotus will sell one-third of its cars in America and Mr Michael Kimberley, the deputy chairman, said the 23 per cent appreciation of the pound against the dollar in the last 12 months was making life very difficult. However, Lotus sales are 36 per cent higher than for 1987.

As BMW and Mercedes

have been forced to discount models in the US, so Jaguar's traditional price advantage has been squeezed, leaving the company little room to raise prices in future, in order to maintain profit margins as the dollar weakens. In contrast to Jaguar, sales of Rover-built Sterlings and Range Rovers fell sharply in April. Sterling sales slumped to 546 in April compared with 1,621 in the same month in 1987.

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"I am pleased to report that the Group is in excellent shape"

PROFESSOR SIR JAMES BALL, CHAIRMAN.

Speaking at the Annual General Meeting on 18th May, Sir James said, "Total worldwide life, pensions, investment and general insurance premium income showed good growth in 1987. Profit before tax, special bonus and the October hurricane, which cost us \$42 million, rose by 50% to \$110m.

LIFE & PENSIONS

"The great strength of our life fund has been confirmed by both Standard & Poor's and Moody's Triple A rating. Moody's comment that 'This fund has demonstrated above average returns from a well diversified portfolio of excellent quality'.

"We are in good shape for the world after the Financial Services Act. Effective distribution

channels will be crucial, and we have adopted a three-pronged approach: a direct sales force, a large network of tied agents and continuing good relationships with Independent Intermediaries. I believe our approach of covering all channels is not only the most cost-efficient, but also gives a high degree of flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances.

"Fairmount Trust, our independent intermediary operation, is a significant diversification into markets about which we are especially knowledgeable and which are potentially profitable.

GENERAL INSURANCE

"The once-off effects of last October's hurricane do not detract from the overall health of General Insurance. Profits on UK underwriting in 1987, hurricane excluded, were based on progress across all classes, including motor.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

"Our international business provided a profit contribution of £22 million last year,

up by two-thirds at constant exchange rates, representing approximately one-third of the Group's profit before tax and special bonus.

"The results of Victory and of our US life subsidiary, Banner Life, are encouraging. Our Australian operations continued their exceptionally rapid growth, and our seedcorn operations in France and Holland are developing rapidly.

OUTLOOK

"The first quarter new business figures for Life and Pensions for 1988 are excellent. New annual premium for individual life business is showing 50% growth, and individual pensions business is showing 81% growth.

"1988 has also started well for General Insurance, with a first quarter underwriting profit. We are optimistic that, barring catastrophes, it will be a good year."



Standard Chartered

Base Rate

On and after 18th May 1988 Standard Chartered Bank's Base Rate for lending is being decreased from 8.00% to 7.50%.

Standard Chartered Bank
Head Office 38 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4DE
Tel. 01-280 7500 Telex 885951

SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Sun Alliance and London Insurance plc was held yesterday at the Head Office of the Company in Bartholomew Lane, London, EC2.

Mr. H. U. A. Lambert, the Chairman, presided and in addressing the Meeting stated -

"Following our usual practice I would like to give shareholders a general indication of our results for the first three months of the year although we do not publish detailed quarterly figures.

At home, largely as a result of the mild winter, we have had a good start to the year and made a marginal underwriting profit.

Results from all major overseas territories also show improvements on the first quarter 1987.

Investment income has again shown useful growth and, with an increased contribution from our life business, I am able to report that in contrast to recent years we have achieved a very satisfactory pre-tax profit for the first quarter."

A Vote of Thanks to the Chairman, Directors and Staff was proposed by Sir Christopher Benson.

SUN ALLIANCE AND LONDON INSURANCE

هذه امه الاصل

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Your bank balances need never come as news to you and you'll be able to find out about any transactions the moment they're processed.

As well as giving information, Royline also enables you to make payments at the touch of a button.

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And if this isn't enough, Royline also offers cheque reconciliation and transfers to high interest accounts.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

May 19, 1988

Fergus Millar, an Oxford don, recommends a complete change of direction in attitudes towards higher education

Few readers of *The Times* can be unaware that there is now a major crisis of confidence in the relations between the Government and the universities. The Education Reform Bill proposes a framework for the future which would give almost unlimited discretionary power to any future Secretary of State for Education, operating via a new Universities Funding Council (UFC), nominated by himself and even more subordinate to him than the existing University Grants Committee (UGC). Grants to universities through the UFC will be subject to any conditions currently thought desirable in Whitehall. Tenure will be ended (retrospectively to November 20, 1987), and the Bill as drafted contains no allusion to academic freedom.

The universities have mounted a vigorous campaign against it, and some concessions are promised. The Lords, now debating the Bill, may introduce some further changes. But marginal improvements are not enough. Instead we need a complete change of direction.

The proposals which follow are far from ideal, and would be unnecessary if the Government saw education as a public duty which we owe to the future, realized that we now offer higher education to far too small a proportion of the population, and accepted that public funding of the universities is both positively desirable in itself, and compatible

with absolute freedom in teaching and research. For central control and direction will thwart the very purposes for which public money is spent.

But the proposals made here at least have the dubious merit of being more in line with the Government's proclaimed philosophy than are the provisions of its own Education Bill. They would replace centralism by local autonomy and local responsibility; they would introduce a real element of consumer choice and competition; they would reduce administrative costs and cut out quangos; and, above all, they would reduce the influence of government patronage, and of secret, non-responsible decision-making by nominated bodies.

All the provisions relating to higher education in the Bill should be dropped now, for they represent simply a further step down a road which has already proved disastrous.

The key is to change the nature of public funding of universities. At the moment only 8 per cent of the public funds received by universities comes to them in the form of the fees paid by students from the UK. These fees are mandatorily paid on behalf of UK students by their local authorities, and can therefore be seen as a form of indirect public funding of the universities.

The first step would be to raise such fees drastically, so that they account for, say, 50 per cent of the total. The choices made by the real

The Government's belief in freedom must now be applied to the universities



posed on the number of students which any university can take.

For the remaining 50 per cent of public funding, the Government should declare that the value in real terms of the direct grant for each university will remain constant each year, in real terms.

Universities should be absolutely free to compete for whatever further funding, both capital and recurrent, they can get, from both public and private sources.

What is said above applies to the normal teaching and research conducted in universities. It is not a paradox to say that freedom and a degree of financial stability will give a better return on public money than interference and control from Whitehall. But, given that framework, the Government should of course be free, subject to Parliamentary approval, to promote and fund specific major initiatives in areas which it regards as being a national importance. Any consequent advice or directions which it gives to the research councils must be made public.

It is extraordinary that a Government dedicated in principle to freedom, responsibility, consumer choice and the discipline of the market, should have embraced, in relation to the universities, a narrow and debilitating centralism. It is not too late for it to give its own principles a chance.

Fergus Millar is Camden Professor of Ancient History at Brasenose College, Oxford

customers, who are students, and not, as the Government claims, the Government itself, would immediately become an extremely important factor in university finance, and in the decisions universities make.

As for the remaining 50 per cent, what the universities need is stability and a rational basis for long-term planning. Let the appropriate block grant for each university be announced now for the next financial year, with an undertaking that in subsequent years there will be the same block grant in real terms, adjusted for inflation, until the end of this Parliament.

The advantages of this system would be enormous. The UGC could be abolished, and its substantial costs diverted to other uses. Each university would be free to plan on a secure and responsible basis. Above all, the deeply damaging, and profoundly corrupting, principle that major decisions concerning the pursuit

of knowledge and the education of the young can and should be made by committees nominated by ministerial patronage, meeting in secret and publicly responsible to no one, would vanish from the centre of academic life.

The benefits of the new system in terms of initiative for universities would also be immense. Firstly, any university which attracted more students and was prepared to do the work of teaching them could greatly increase its income. Let not the reader suppose that this freedom exists at the moment. On the contrary, the present system, with its dependence on block grants, has allowed the Government, via the UGC, to impose strict limits on the numbers of students which each university can take.

On the new system, Government-imposed limits would go, and the universities, far more

dependent on fee income than before, would have an overwhelming motive for putting on courses which were interesting and attractive, and for maximizing their intake of students.

The other side of this local freedom and initiative would be local responsibility. Universities would be able to budget on a basis of direct funding, which, though greatly reduced, would at least be predictable, and unaffected by the erratic and confused changes of direction characteristic of the UGC. For the rest, a university's financial prospects would depend entirely on its own efforts, in attracting students, and in raising funds from public and private sources.

Given the drastic reductions in public funding which have already taken place, combined with the already known fall in the numbers of the relevant age group during the next few years, what is suggested here is no soft option for

universities. On the contrary, they would need to think hard about taking in students with fewer formal qualifications, or from a much wider age range, or both. Given current changes in school education, almost all of our very short university courses will in any case need to be extended, at least to four years rather than three.

In summary my proposals are as follows:

- The University Grants Committee should be abolished, and not replaced by a Universities Funding Council or any other nominated body.
- Home student fees should be raised so as to account for 50 per cent, as opposed to 8 per cent, of public funding of universities, at the present level; these fees should in the future continue to be paid by local education authorities, and should be adjusted strictly in line with inflation.
- No restrictions should be im-

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Those interested should write enclosing a comprehensive CV to:

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83-103 Euston Street, LONDON NW1 2ET

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Management Consultants
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The successful candidate will be an articulate, confident ACA/CACA with a first class track record, making either their first or second move out of the profession.

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Your responsibilities will include:

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The Bank is experiencing continuing demand from an ever growing list of clients in the UK, Europe and the USA, for all aspects of corporate and financial advice and the conduct of a wide variety of transactions, both at home and abroad.

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If you are interested in the challenge of corporate finance with this leading UK merchant bank contact Lindsey Sugden ACA or Penny Braum on 01-404 5751 or write to them at Michael Page City, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LL. (Evening and weekends: 01-871 9364).



Michael Page City
International Recruitment Consultants
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International Recruitment Consultancy London - Edinburgh

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Ludgate House 63 George Street
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Public Relations Accountant

Salary Negotiable

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London & Quadrant Housing Trust is the largest developing housing association working in the capital. Managing around 10,000 homes in over 20 local authority areas, its investment programme totalled more than £20 million in the last financial year. Assets exceed £200 million, total turnover is around £15 million. It is a leader in the field of special needs housing, with well over 100 such projects now in management. The trust's short term housing unit manages over 500 homes.

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Candidates should possess a recognised accountancy qualification or have a wide ranging experience gained with a housing authority. A knowledge of computerised systems would be an advantage.

For informal chat ring Sandy Wilson on 01-882 9781

Job description and application form from:

Personnel Department
London & Quadrant Housing Trust
Quadrant House
Quadrant Terrace
London SE3 3QB
Tel: 01-352 2459 (anonymous)

Closing date 1st June 1988



London & Quadrant
Housing Trust

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Retail Store Managers Designate/ Assistant Managers

London W1

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Initial responsibilities will include managing a part of the business generating up to £6 million, with particular emphasis on realising sales potential through customer service, staff development, merchandising and administration.

Heal's, part of the Storehouse Group, offers excellent benefits including discount in Group stores, share schemes and Christmas bonus. If you have the required experience and qualities and would like the challenge of becoming a future Heal's Store Manager, please telephone for an application form or write, with full career and salary details to Mrs. Anne Doon, Personnel Manager, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 8LD. 01-636 1666 Ext. 5030.



A Storehouse PLC Company

REED employment

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Persina International

Centrum House, Industry Road, Carlton Industrial Estate, Carlton, Barnsley, S. Yorks. S70 3RH. Tel. 0226-728370 Ref. 54523 Fax. 722880

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IOMEGA is an employee orientated company with individual career growth potential and is offering a complete employee benefit package to the right individual. Please rush a resume complete with salary history to: Mr. Mason Herzog, IOMEGA Corporation, Excelsiorlaan 39-Box 3, 1930 Zaventem, Brussels, Belgium, or call Philip Rowland on 0234 213571

Equal Opportunity Employer.



GRADUATE LONDON & PROVINCES c. £10,000

Branch offices of Top 10 firms and recruitment practices of Chartered Accountants in London and the provinces are interviewing now for graduates (Age 21-23 with 2-3 degrees and 10 UCAS points minimum), to sign training contracts in August.

Locations include: Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Southampton, Swansea, Tyneside, York.

To arrange an interview contact:

Sandra Sutton on 01-481 8111

Therese James

Accountancy

Lloyds Avenue House

6 Lloyds Avenue

London EC3N 3ES.

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT OXBORKE CIRCA £20K

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A qualified ACA/ACCA required by this prestige cosmetics company to handle all aspects of day to day accounts and manage the financial affairs of the organisation. Ref: 6764.

Contact Mr R J Page or Ms C Osborne

Accountancy Task Force Ltd (Apt)

6 Broad Street Place,

Blomfield Street, EC2M 7AN 01 628 7831.

HORIZONS

A guide to
career development

Plus side of the brain drain

Knowledge knows no
frontiers and for those
who feel frustrated
in an academic career,
or who have retired, but
command sought-after
skills, the chances
are there to travel,
says Roger Jones

Many people, I suppose, see a university don as sipping sherry in his ivory tower, oblivious to the world about him. But it is a distorted picture. While there is no doubt that universities jealously guard their traditions and independence, that does not mean they ignore what is happening outside their hallowed portals.

They can't afford to. Knowledge, of course, knows no frontiers, and institutions of learning are very much interdependent. This fact was recognized back in 1913 by a group of academics who met together to form the first international inter-university association in the world — the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

Today the ACU boasts some 328 member universities in 29 Commonwealth countries, including 144 institutions in Asia. Its current chairman hails from Australia, its deputy chairman is British, and its treasurer is Canadian.

The association aims to promote contact and co-operation between its member institutions by arranging meetings, administering a scholarship and fellowship plan, and acting as a publisher and information source. Another major activity is the recruitment of academic staff for overseas universities.

However, the ACU — according to Dorothy Garland, its appointments officer — does not operate like a normal recruitment agency. It cannot mediate between an academic and his employer; it does not accept unsolicited applications; nor does it indulge in headhunting.

"We regard ourselves as the London office of the University of Zimbabwe, the University of Hong Kong, or whichever of our members asks us for assistance," she says.

The universities that most regularly seek the ACU's assistance include those in Australia, New Zealand, Southern Africa, Papua New Guinea, Brunei, and the West Indies. Canadian universities, by contrast, rarely call on the ACU for assistance, except perhaps to find experts in computer science, business, or nursing studies, where they are experiencing shortages.

In the developed world universities

recruit staff from outside the country because they like to. Outsiders are seen as a positive influence, preventing too much academic inbreeding. Australians, in particular, like to recruit internationally in order to have a larger pool of talent to draw on and keep their standards high.

This is not to say that there is a shortage of home-grown talent. Under Under, indeed, it often happens that Australian candidates for the posts advertised turn out to be quite as good as the foreign competition and are duly appointed.

In the case of the Third World things are different. Developing countries need foreign academics as a stop-gap measure until they have people of their own who can take over the responsibility. So the posts they recruit for are generally fixed-term contracts which do not offer security of tenure. But the countries themselves have certain attractions, notably for people who have been brought up overseas or who want to do research in the tropics.

The drawback of some of these Third World universities is that the remuneration they offer is sometimes low and they have limited research facilities — compared with those in richer countries. This is not the case, however, in Hong Kong which has institutions of higher education with good resources, and has just opened its third university, which is devoted to science and technology.

Science, engineering, technology, computer science, medicine — these are the areas where most opportunities lie. There is only a low demand for arts subjects, except in the case of English — both language and literature.

In places like Hong Kong and Papua New Guinea there is a need for TEFL expertise — but most of the TEFL recruitment for higher education overseas tends to be in the hands of the British Council. The ODA also recruits academics for third world posts, while Nigeria, Ghana and Singapore have their own university recruitment offices attached to their high commissions.

How about the long-term prospects? School teachers, for example, sometimes find it difficult to resume their careers in Britain if they have spent a substantial period of time overseas. This does not appear to be a problem in higher education — provided a person has a long-term goal and keeps up his research work. Indeed, going abroad can actually enhance a person's future career.

Dorothy remembers a food technologist she interviewed who was keen to have a posting outside Britain, since all the leading people in his particular discipline have overseas experience. A young lecturer appointed to the University of Papua New Guinea managed to do research for his Ph D during his time there, and he subsequently moved on to a post at Edinburgh University.

These two are representative of the

type of young academic, often without family commitments, who is keen to see the world before settling down. Other candidates, who may be in their late twenties, thirties or forties are frustrated at the lack of opportunities for promotion, and — more importantly — by the ever diminishing funds available for research in their country.

Finally there are lecturers and professors with a wealth of experience to offer who have taken early retirement. They are particularly welcome in the New Commonwealth, since their tenure will be relatively brief and they will not therefore represent a threat to up and coming indigenous academics.

"In the academic world nobody cares a lot what nationality a person is", Dorothy insists. "Universities are interested in what contribution a candidate is likely to make to the intellectual life of their institution." Thus, while not disregarding such features as character and motivation, it is on a person's strengths and weaknesses in teaching, research and administration that the report of any ACU interviewing panel will concentrate.

The purpose of the reporting system is to enable the university concerned to make a more informed decision about those applicants in which it has expressed a particular interest. The eventual outcome lies in their hands. The ACU plays no role in the shortlisting or the final decision making.

In recent years many more academics have been showing an interest in work abroad, partly as a result of cutbacks in higher education in the UK. "Since 1981 the calibre of candidates for overseas posts has gone up and up", Dorothy comments. "We are seeing some very high-quality candidates and it's very exciting."

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• The address of the ACU is John Foster House, 26 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF. Apart from advertising in the relevant academic journals, the ACU circulates details of vacancies to all university registrars and careers advisory services. Senior posts are listed in ABCD — The ACU Bulletin of Current Documentation.

• The Overseas Educational Appointments Division of the British Council is at 65 Davies Street, London W1T 2AA.

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Enter the gladiators who endure as well as inflict pain in order to give their world-wide audience pleasure

A fair wind from Jamaica

Efforts are being made to require the bowling of a minimum number of overs per hour throughout the playing day. A recent meeting of the ICC, the ruling body, voted almost unanimously to require an over-rate of 15 per hour, or 90 overs in a normal playing day. The lone vote against was the West Indies. They had previously lost on their own proposed calling for a rate of 14 per hour or 84 per day. As a matter of interest, the West Indian team have been averaging 13.9 per hour over the last three years.

This is a difficult question. The West Indian success has been built on an essentially all-pace attack. Since pace bowling is a legitimate part of the game, they have consistently argued that they are within their rights to depend exclusively on this lawful instrument. Meanwhile, as far as the question of intimidatory bowling is concerned, West Indies point to the fact that umpires are empowered to control the frequency with which the bumper is used.

Interestingly, the question of intimidation has not figured openly in the present debates at the level of the ICC. There are, of course, those who suspect that this may be a hidden factor motivating the leaders of the movement to increase the over-rate. On the other hand, some argue that umpires are in a very difficult position.

They are required to locate the dividing line which separates what is hostile but fair from the moment when hostility is so sustained and so persistent as to become unfair. If they err in either direction they are, in fact, improperly influencing the outcome of the game. Captains at a disadvantage will then have a basis for demanding that the umpires should not be allowed to stand in future games.

Bodyline bowling directed at the batsman with a pad and a close side field was outlawed after the destruction of Australia by Larwood and Voce under Jardine's direction in 1933. But the short-pitched ball intended to unsettle the batsman was not barred.

Later, after a slow accumulation of protest in the period after the Second World War, it was decided to limit the number of short-pitched balls which could be bowled in an over to two. The umpire has to decide when a ball is pitched short. Furthermore, the No. 2 is indicative rather than absolute.

Granted the nature of cricket, it is impossible to provide absolute guidelines for distinguishing hostile but fair bowling from intimidatory tactics. In the last analysis the issue must be contained by policy. Cricket is a game, however fiercely contested, and despite the welcome and increasing financial incentives. Within the terms of reference that cricketers have set for

In the last extract from his book on the history of West Indian cricket,

Michael Manley, the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, sees in the unity achieved on the field of play a ground-plan for a future proud and integrated Caribbean

themselves through the ages is the concept of sportsmanship. This, too, is elusive, but remains real for all that.

There must be, therefore, a set of conventions which are respected by players and upheld by captains. Some conventions are simple and clear, like the one preventing bumpers directed at tail-enders who are specialist bowlers. Some are complex, like those limiting but not excluding bumpers to specialist batsmen and all-rounders. The game is tough and competitive and must not be refined to accommodate the faint-hearted.

On the other hand, it cannot be interpreted to include attempts with malice aforethought to break the nerve of the brave by fanning all targets save the body itself. Equally it must be understood that batsmen share the obligation of sportsmanship. To forsake all objectives save defence in the hope that the bowler will succumb to fatigue, if not frustration, is to invite a few reminders whistling around the ears. The rules should not preclude such dispositions.

The formal arguments used in the debate have centred around the spectators. It is justly contended that using anything but fast bowlers slows down the game. This is followed by the assertion that this makes it dull for the audience. Second, it is suggested that since quick bowlers get through fewer overs than spinners, spectators are robbed of actual playing time. Third, it is argued that a captain is obliged to slow down the game to keep his bowlers as fresh as possible.

Each of these arguments has merit on the face of it, though by extension they could, with equal logic, be used to restrict medium-pace bowling as well. The protagonists contend, however, that their aim is to achieve a balance in the interest of the spectator. West Indies replied in the following terms.

First, it was contended that legislation which forces a country to select or omit a type of bowler is an undue interference with the captain's right to use the bowlers he considers best suited to and most effective in a given situation.



CRICKET IN THE BLOOD

Second, it was pointed out that West Indian fast bowlers are exciting to watch and the side have been consistently filling all Test match grounds.

Third, it was admitted that they cannot attain 15 overs an hour but the meeting was reminded that a concrete suggestion had been made for the recent tour of New Zealand. West Indies have been asked to bowl at least 12 overs in the first hour of each New Zealand innings.

Finally, they rejected the suggestion that it was the fast bowlers who caused the problem. Instead, they put the blame on dull betting. It is believed that Geoffrey Boycott was cited as an example, it being claimed that more over a day to that sort of batsman would merely mean more boredom for the spectators.

The 15-over rule was sent to the MCC Rule Committee for a new law of the game to be drafted. West Indies asked that a number of points be taken into account, the first that no-balls be counted so that the target is a flat 540 balls in a day. Second, that allowances be made for batsmen's mid-wicket conferences, adjustment of pad straps, tying of bootlaces and the like. Third, that discussions about the condition of the ball must be taken into account.

Finally, West Indies have raised a question to which no clear answer has been forthcoming. The present proposal calls for an extension of time each day until the quota of overs has been reached. But nature seems to preclude this solution in the West Indies, India, Pakistan and northern Australia, where the dark descends abruptly.

Whatever the ultimate merits, the whole question has caused more than a little bitterness. One must accept the genuine concern of the majority for the image of the game as an entertainment and their genuine fear of serious injuries. But the fact is that West Indies, players and authorities alike, feel that it is really an attempt to cut them down to size.

Meantime, they have a genuine case concerning no-balls and time spent fiddling around by batsmen. At an even more fundamental level, however, there remains the question: what

is to be done about batsmen who "sit on the spot," refusing to get on with the game? The limited-over match rules have a salutary effect in this regard. How this might be achieved in the Test arena is not clear. However, if the basis of the argument for a minimum over-rate is to combat dull cricket, the authorities cannot indefinitely ignore the role of the batsman.

The new rule was due to come into effect for the World Cup. It happened at a time when West Indian cricket appears to be at a crossroads.

And what of the gladiators themselves? As they have, like most athletes, played through injury and pain; as the fast bowlers have sprinted to the wicket hour after hour straining through the barriers of exhaustion; as the slow bowlers have continued to spin the ball even when the blood begins to run from fingers rubbed raw by the constant friction; as the batsmen have faced the balls leaping off the wicket at more than 90 m.p.h., willing themselves to forget the blows to the body and thigh; as the fielders have held balls hit so hard they would smash the hands of ordinary folk, they have entertained hundreds of thousands of people.

No one has ever questioned the physical courage of the West Indian cricketer; his stamina at first, yes, and his ability to cope with pressure; but never his courage. With time he has overcome the psychological weaknesses which were a part of his colonial heritage. Now he is, player for player, the equal of anyone that cricket has produced.

In the course of this, the team whose demands are the cause of all this effort and pain have become a symbol to the people of the English Caribbean. To a profound extent, they influence the mood of the region which exults in their victories, and it is cast into gloom when they lose. Where other regional institutions fight to survive the centripetal forces of insularity, the team become even more West Indian.

Perhaps one day the people of the Caribbean will do more than admire their cricket team; they might even seek to emulate their team's success by discovering for themselves the unity which is their secret. Of course, the West Indies team had to complete the process of professionalisation before they could realize their full potential.

The Caribbean will have to undergo an equivalent transformation of its economy through an integration process. It will then create the political institutions to ensure that its collective advantages are both protected and brought to their fullest potential in serving the needs of the people.

The above article is adapted from *A History of West Indies Cricket*, by Michael Manley, published by Andre Deutsch at £17.95.



Heart-stopping pace maker: Michael Holding, one of West Indies' leading fast bowlers, is at full gallop (Photograph: Patrick Eagar)

FISHING

When the casting has to be perfect

By Conrad Voss Bark

The BBC programme on trout fishing, broadcast on Monday, was one of their least successful efforts. For the last 30 or 40 years various BBC producers have tried rather hard to capture something about fishing which will be memorable, instructive or good television, hopefully perhaps all three, and have often produced fairly miserable failures.

There was the awful programme, a classic of its kind, about 10 years ago, when heaven's I've forgotten its name - in which a man was seen catching three salmon, one after the other, in about four minutes. It was a travesty of the truth but the producers, who had probably been brought up on the principal of getting as much action and movement into as little air time as possible - what you might call the cup final syndrome - were apparently completely unaware of their crime.

The truth about fishing, of course, is that there is very little action in it at all. Therefore, if a producer comes to it with the cup final in mind he will certainly make a mess of it. As in Monday's programme.

The camera was focused on a fisherman who was fly fishing, or rather fishing imitation bait, who provided his own commentary as he went along. This is a fatal formula. Most ordinary fishermen are not trained as commentators. You need a good actor and a good script.

This gentleman - and I felt so sorry for him - had neither qualification. He did his best but occasionally lost his head. When he was playing a trout he exclaimed in a high-pitched voice "I'm going to get you, you anyway, ha ha ha!" Which was not in the best taste.

But far worse than a banal commentary was the ending when the fisherman, having caught his trout, ate it happily on the bankside after it had been cooked between what appeared to be two layers of chicken wire. Not good cooking, good fishing, or good television.

It can be done. Gramma did it four years ago, but then they had that great actor Michael Hordern as the fisherman with a script by Arthur Ransome, one of the best writers on fishing who ever lived. BBC, do please take a lesson from Gramma.

Bowling along

An indoor bowls league for 10 schools, sponsored by the Bristol & West Building Society, is to be started in the Bristol area in the autumn (Gordon Allan writes). The prizes include £100 for new sports equipment for the winning school.

House of Lords

Law Report May 19 1988

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Avoidance scheme led to 116 per cent tax bill

Court divided on effect of delay in extradition

Bird and Others v Inland Revenue Commissioners, Broom's Nominees Ltd and Another v Same

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Brightman, Lord Templeman and Lord Oliver of Aylmerton [Speeches May 12]

Where loans had been made by a company to its shareholders, the shareholders had received a tax advantage under section 460(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 in that they had received consideration in the non-taxable form of loans when they might have received a taxable form of capital dividends.

Accordingly, they had been validly assessed to tax under section 460(3) with a view to counteracting that advantage, but the assessments should be reduced proportionately by the amount in which the company had been assessed to corporation tax since it could only meet that liability by calling in the loans made to the taxpayers and the tax advantage obtained by the taxpayers was necessarily reduced by that amount.

The House of Lords allowed in part appeals by the taxpayers, the executors of the will of the late Mr Charles H. Ellis and the trustees of a settlement made by Mrs D. M. Ellis, his wife, against assessments made by the Inland Revenue Commissioners (SIR Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Bingham) (*The Times* February 4, 1987; 1987 STC 168) who had dismissed the appeals by the taxpayers and allowed cross-appeals by the Crown from Mr Justice Vinelott (1985) STC 584) who had upheld the assessments to tax and surtax in principle but reduced them in amount.

Section 460 of the 1970 Act provides: "(1) Where - (a) in any such circumstances as are mentioned in section 461 below, and (b) in consequence of a transaction in securities or of the combined effect of two or more such transactions, a person is in a position to obtain, or has obtained, a tax advantage, this section shall apply to him in respect of that transaction or those transactions..."

Where section 460 applied, the tax advantage was to be counteracted, under subsection (3), in one of a number of ways including the making of an assessment.

Section 466 provides: "(1) ... 'tax advantage' means a relief or increased relief from, or repayment or increased repayment of, tax, or the avoidance or reduction of an assessment to tax or the avoidance of a possible assessment thereon, whether the avoidance or reduction is effected by receipts accruing in such a way that the recipient does not pay or deduction in computing profits or gains..."

Mr Charles Beattie, QC and Mr Stephen Brandon for the taxpayers; Mr Christopher McColl, QC and Mr Lamont Henderson for the Crown.

LORD KEITH said that the appeals revealed, from the taxpayers' point of view, a sad story of a tax-avoidance scheme that had not only failed but had resulted in a greater tax liability than it had ever been entered into, so that nothing of a substantial nature had been paid.

In 1971, Mr Ellis, his wife, the trustees and one J. L. had been shareholders in a company, "Immarish". Immarish had owned 70 per cent of the shares in another company, "CCD", which owned a building in Croydon worth £102m but subject to a £5.8m charge.

It had been desired to realize the Croydon property and to distribute the net proceeds among, *inter alia*, the shareholders of Immarish.

Simply to sell the property and then wind up CCD and pay the proceeds to the shareholders would have involved CCD paying corporation tax at 40 per cent on the gain arising from the sale, Immarish paying corporation tax at 40 per cent on the gain realized on the deemed disposal of its shares in CCD and the shareholders of Immarish paying capital gains tax at 30 per cent on the chargeable gain resulting from the deemed disposal of their shares in Immarish.

The parties had accordingly consulted the Bradman and Faber organization. Bradman had devised, in consideration of a fee of £300,000, an elaborate scheme designed to secure that the net proceeds of the sale of the Croydon property would be equal to approximately 70 per cent of the net proceeds of the Croydon property free of any liability to tax. The taxpayers had agreed to implement the scheme.

It had been in four stages. It sufficed to concentrate on the fourth stage, "the loan scheme". The material events had been:

February 5, 1971: A company called "Jergil" had been incorporated with Mr Ellis as sole director. March 24: Jergil had issued 100 £1 ordinary shares to Immarish in exchange for the latter's 70 per cent holding in CCD, the issue being treated as made at a premium of £2,862,850. Jergil had sold to Tishmeer (a Bradman company) 70 per cent of its shares in CCD for £2,863,950.

August 22, 1972: A company called Interlude had been incorporated by Bradman.

October 2: Two Bradman companies, Lomita and Fortress, had each acquired one subscriber's share in Interlude in the sum of £972,000 and to surtax on Mr Ellis in the sum of £1,215,000, all in respect of the year 1972-73. The assessments on Mr Ellis had been to £470,812 in income tax and £668,250 in surtax, and on the trustees to £376,650 in income tax.

October 5: Interlude had lent £243,000 to Mr Ellis, £972,000 to Mrs Ellis, £972,000 to the trustees and £243,000 to L's children, a total of £2,430,000.

October 12: Interlude had issued 99% shares to Lomita and Fortress for £2,429,998. Jergil had bought from Lomita and Fortress their whole shareholdings in Interlude for £2,431,000.

On a date not specified in the case stated, Interlude had repaid the £2,369,250 owing to FNFC.

On the conclusion of those transactions the position had been that Immarish had had as its only significant asset a subsidiary company, Jergil, which had had as its only significant asset a subsidiary company, Interlude, which had had as its only significant asset debts of £2,430,000 owing to it by Mr and Mrs Ellis, the trustees and L's children. CCD and the Croydon property had disappeared into the Bradman organization.

On March 20, 1972, the Croydon property had been sold for £9.8m by Armore, another Bradman company into whose hands it had come through a circuitous series of transactions.

The purpose of arranging for Interlude to make the loans to the shareholders in Immarish at a time when Interlude had still been in the Bradman organization had been to attempt to avoid the application of section 286 of the 1970 Act.

The effect of that enactment was that where a loan was made by a close company to a participant in the sum lent was grossed up and tax at the standard rate on the grossed-up amount accounted for by the company to the Revenue.

Interlude had been a subsidiary of Jergil when the loans had been made. The shareholders in Immarish, Jergil's holding company, would have fallen to be treated as participants in Interlude by virtue of sections 303(1) and 266(9).

Implementation of the scheme had resulted in a number of actions on the part of the Revenue. Immarish had been assessed to corporation tax on the gain arising from the disposal of its CCD shares to Jergil in the sum of £2,855,347, the tax liability being £539,629.

The Revenue had also assessed CCD to corporation tax in respect of the chargeable gain arising on the sale of the Croydon property.

Finally, notices under section 460(6) of the 1970 Act had been issued to Mr Ellis, in respect of himself and his wife, and to the trustees, specifying the transactions embodied in the scheme as giving reason to believe that tax advantages had thereby been obtained.

Those notices had been followed by assessments to income tax on Mr Ellis in the sum of £1,215,000 and on the trustees in the sum of £972,000 and to surtax on Mr Ellis in the sum of £1,215,000, all in respect of the year 1972-73. The assessments on Mr Ellis had been to £470,812 in income tax and £668,250 in surtax, and on the trustees to £376,650 in income tax.

That argument was without substance. There was no question of double taxation of the taxpayers. Immarish's liability

for corporation tax was quite separate from that of its shareholders for income tax. Where transactions involving a number of corporate structures were concerned it could well come about that successive changes to tax were capable of being validly levied from the different legal entities that had entered into transactions leading to liability.

Cumulative tax liability on a company and on its shareholders could arise in a variety of circumstances and was readily distinguishable from double taxation of an individual because separate taxpayers and separate liabilities were involved.

Accordingly, the taxpayers' attacks on the validity of the assessments failed, and it remained to consider whether they had been correct.

It seemed clear that in order to find funds to meet the bulk of the charge to corporation tax Immarish would in the end inevitably have had to secure the calling-in of the requisite amount of the loans to the taxpayers and L's children.

Thus the tax advantages obtained by the taxpayers would necessarily have been reduced by the appropriate proportion of the corporation tax suffered by Immarish. The question was whether in the circumstances assessed under section 460 should be reduced accordingly.

In the absence of any authority constraining to a contrary conclusion, his Lordship would be disposed unhesitatingly to answer that question in the affirmative. If no credit were given for the corporation tax to be paid by Immarish, it was calculated that the total tax liability on the amount received by Mr Ellis and his wife would amount to 116 per cent. The expressed object of section 460 was to counteract tax advantages, and that would appear to go far beyond counteraction.

His Lordship did not consider that conclusion to be inconsistent with the decision of the House in *Williams v Inland Revenue Commissioners* (1980) 54 TC 257, by which the Court of Appeal had felt themselves bound. He was, therefore, in no doubt that the judge had been right to regard *Williams* as not precluding him from making a reduction in the amount of the section 460 assessments.

He would, accordingly, allow the appeal to the extent of reducing the amount of the assessments so as to take into account the taxpayers' liability to repay to Immarish so much of their loans was necessary to meet the latter's liability to corporation tax.

Lord Brandon, Lord Brightman, Lord Templeman and Lord Oliver agreed.

Solicitors: Wedlake Bell; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

for corporation tax was quite separate from that of its shareholders for income tax.

Where transactions involving a number of corporate structures were concerned it could well come about that successive changes to tax were capable of being validly levied from the different legal entities that had entered into transactions leading to liability.

Cumulative tax liability on a company and on its shareholders could arise in a variety of circumstances and was readily distinguishable from double taxation of an individual because separate taxpayers and separate liabilities were involved.

Accordingly, the taxpayers' attacks on the validity of the assessments failed, and it remained to consider whether they had been correct.

It seemed clear that in order to find funds to meet the bulk of the charge to corporation tax Immarish would in the end inevitably have had to secure the calling-in of the requisite amount of the loans to the taxpayers and L's children.

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Lord Brandon, Lord Brightman, Lord Templeman and Lord Oliver agreed.

Solicitors: Wedlake Bell; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Regina v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Parkin

Before Lord Justice Stocker and Mr Justice Hutchison [Judgment May 17]

The discretion whether or not to return an accused person to extradition proceedings was one for the Home Secretary and not for the committing magistrate, the Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in refusing an application for a writ of *habeas corpus* by Brij Parekh.

However, their Lordships differed in a reserved judgment on whether the domestic rule of law established in *R v Derby Crown Court, Ex parte Brooks* (1984) 80 Cr App R 164 that unjustifiable delay in committing proceedings could amount to an abuse of process extended to extradition proceedings.

Mr Jeremy Roberts, QC and Mr Andrew Baillie for Mr Parkin; Mr David Pagar for the USA Government.

LORD JUSTICE STOCKER said that it was established law that the only question for the committing magistrate to consider was whether there was sufficient evidence on which to commit.

The magistrate had therefore

correctly decided that he had no power to refuse to commit on grounds of delay or prejudice.

His Lordship could not accept the argument on behalf of Mr Parkin that the House of Lords' decision in *Atkinson v USA Government* ([1971] AC 197) which established, *inter alia*, that there was no wider power in extradition proceedings than in domestic commitments was no longer binding in view of *R v Derby Crown Court, Ex parte Brooks* in which the Divisional Court had held that unjustifiable delay in domestic commitment proceedings could amount to an abuse of process.

Although there was cogency in the argument that the power of magistrates in domestic commitments had been enlarged as a result of the *Derby* decision, it could not be said that *Atkinson* was no longer binding. Only the House of Lords could modify *Atkinson*.

MR JUSTICE HUTCHISON, agreeing that the application for *habeas corpus* was dismissed, was, however, with diffidence and reluctance, of the opinion that the discretionary power now recognized in domestic proceedings existed equally in proceedings under the Extradition Act 1870.

His Lordship reached the following conclusions:

1. The basic approach was dictated by the words of section 9 of the 1870 Act, which required the magistrate to determine the matter as near as may be as if he were dealing with domestic commitment proceedings.

2. The decision of *Atkinson* was authority for the proposition that there was nothing peculiar to extradition cases which justified attributing to the magistrate powers which, in domestic proceedings, he did not possess; and that, since, when the case was decided, his powers in domestic proceedings did not allow him any discretion, it followed that in an extradition case he had none.

3. There was no authority which established that, in extradition cases, the powers of the magistrate were more circumscribed than were his powers in domestic proceedings.

4. Since *Atkinson* was decided, it had become firmly established that in domestic proceedings the magistrate had a discretion summarised by Sir Roger Ormrod in *R v Derby Crown Court, Ex parte Brooks*.

5. The proper application of section 9 involved the magistrate hearing extradition proceedings having an identical discretion.

Solicitors: Leftley & Co, Harrow, DPP.

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Solicitors: Leftley & Co, Harrow, DPP.

acting within the execution of his duty if, having stopped a vehicle pursuant to section 159 of the Road Traffic Act 1972, he detained it in order to make further inquiries, because he suspected that the vehicle might have been stolen, but without having formed the view that it had fact been stolen.

It was not possible to give a simple answer. A police officer did not have to form the view that a vehicle had in fact been stolen in order to detain it. It was sufficient if he reasonably suspected it had been stolen.

What was required in order to have such a suspicion was indicated by a passage in the opinion of Lord Devlin in *Fussler v Chong Fook Kam* ([1970] AC 942, 948) which was cited by Lord Diplock in *Holgate-Mohammed v Duke* ([1984] AC 437, 443).

Lord Diplock said: "Suspicion in its ordinary meaning is a state of conjecture or surmise where proof is lacking: 'I suspect but I cannot prove'."

The suspicion had to be reasonable and if the use of the word "may" or "might" was intended to indicate the suspicion was no more than remote possibility that a vehicle had been stolen that would not suffice.

Mr Justice Hutchison agreed. Solicitors: Southwell, Wisbeck; CPS, Cambridge.

Aside from :
spending of a
the rest of the
towards reduc
about 15 per c
ing for further

From Nicolas Soames
Pamplona

The Olympic light-middleweight silver medal winner, Neil Adams, is also absent. Gordon Lambert, who won a silver medal in the British Open last

team's poor performance was less the result of a collective off-day and more to do with an obligation which was not of their making? Whenever the football correspondent of *The*

My great-uncle Theodore Robinson was one of the seven amateurs playing for Somerset in 1895 (they could only afford four professionals, not being

Unfortunately the national television channels (BBC, ITV and Channel 4) are prevented from entering into any such agreements by a stringent inter-

J. C. SCHOFIELD (Hon. secretary, Old Carthusian FC),
77 Middle Avenue, Farnham.

KATOWICE-POLAND • SCORE CARD

From Mr A. Clements
Sir, Sports Letters (May 5)
recalls at the hand of John
Massey Stewart that golf was
possibly played in the USSR in
1960.

Yours sincerely,
A. CLEMENTS,
15 King George VI Mansions,
West End Road, Hove.

The Zola Budd story has had all the ingredients of a Greek drama — ambition, greed, political intrigue — all playing their part towards the inevitable tragic end. At the end Zola

The analgesic effect helps to dampen the pains of those who exceed the weekend jogger's pace. This action is sometimes so effective that determined runners have unknowingly gone beyond their own physical limits.

The rights of the individual sportsman and sportswoman are something else. There are many individuals in South Africa who do not support apartheid, black and white. And there are many more who will.

Once home, having escaped the pressures of competition and controversy, perhaps the best therapy for Miss Budde's anxiety would be a steady run.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN D. PAYTON
3 Glenwood Road,
Durban

By George Rae

Mtoto race

made void

"We knew we were wrong as soon as it happened," said Richard Hills, the rider of the leader at the time, Amerigo Vespucci. There was probably

Epsom class

Ever Ready Derby

Al Muir	H Thomson Jones
Al Muir	H Thomson Jones

Abnathut	Dialup
Abnathut	Wt Hatt
Abnathut	J-M Bagnagone (P)
Abnathut	S Morio
Chap	P Wallyn
Chap	M Staud
Ennathut	W Hatt
Ennathut	M V O'Brien (P)
Ennathut	S Hatt
Golden Wave	W Hatt
Ennathut	P Cole
Ennathut	L Camari
Kris Kingle	M V O'Brien (P)
Makud	R Armstrong
Ennathut	S Hatt
Ennathut	A de Hoyer-Dagge (P)
Ennathut	R Casey
Ennathut	J Bolder (P)
Ennathut	J Bolder (P)
Ennathut	G Wallyn
Ennathut	H Caci
Ennathut	A Pelvis (P)
Ennathut	P Cole
Ennathut	Lady Hatt
Ennathut	A Gattine
Ennathut	C Bivoli
Ennathut	H Hancock
Ennathut	W Hatt
Ennathut	B Sady (P)
Ennathut	M V O'Brien (P)

Ad	J Danilo
Aspro	J True
Aspro	J True
Cat	J Danilo
Cat	J Ozzi (ns)
Charmante	D V O'Brien (ns)
Charmante	J Stacey
Dancing Goddess	M V O'Brien (ns)
Desire	J Cecil
High	M Stacey
Love Rose	L M Beagan (ns)
Light	F Soudin (Fr)
Miss Dora	P Kallway
Mystery Play	F Soudin (Fr)
Little Lilies	M Ziber (Fr)
Charmante	A Fature (Fr)
Chick	S Hils
Pontic Over	M Ziber (Fr)
Princess Gypsy	S Priesthard-Gordon
Raise A Memory	P L Blancane (Fr)
Roses DOR	Mire G Heud (Fr)
Shadows	T Stacey (ns)
Sparrow's Air	S Hils
Spoken Love	C Gurne
Sunrise Sunset Star	P Kallway
Thy	J True
Thy	C Britton
Thy	S Hils
Thy	S Hils
Thy	J Bolger (ns)

BRITAIN'S BIG THREE SPORTS MAGAZINES...

Royal Windsor: report, pictures New saddlery survey

HORSE and HOUND


MAY 19, 1988

Week one in
our vital
campaign:
A Fair Deal for
the Horse.

CRUELTY

TO HORSES AND PONIES

- Do we deserve to be called a nation of horse lovers?
- Deprivation in urban squalor
- The evils of tethering
- How the law can be changed to ease the misery



Horse and Hound is Britain's only weekly, and most widely-read equestrian magazine and it provides the most complete coverage of the horse world. The top names in the sport present immediate, expert comment and opinion, analysis and factual reportage of hunting, racing, show jumping, horse trials and dressage, as well as guidance on riding techniques and advice on veterinary matters. In this week's issue out now: Horses at risk—an issue which exposes abuse, neglect and cruelty and asks: are we really a nation of horse lovers?—Deprived animals on the urban fringe—Market conditions—The plight of moorland ponies—Why animals should not be tethered—How the law must be changed.

...WRITTEN BY EXPERTS FOR ENTHUSIASTS!
OUT TODAY

Perfect Timing to spark Cottrell double

By Michael Seely
(Michael Phillips)

Gerald Cottrell, who enjoyed such a successful 1987, looks poised to pull off a spirit handicapper double at Sandown today with Perfect Timing (2.40) and Ashtina (4.40).

Perfect Timing, my selection for the Weatherall Handicap, caught my eye at Kempton first time out when that strong late flourish carried her into second place, 1½ lengths behind Albatross, and half a length in front of Careless Whisper, who re-appears on the same terms.

Looking at Perfect Timing in the paddock that day, I

detected scope for improvement. As a result, I expect her to take care of Careless Whisper again.

A greater danger in this instance could easily be Careless Whisper who also shaped nicely on his seasonal debut at Newmarket when he finished fourth in the Palace House Stakes.

That form has been boosted since by both the second, Blues Indigo, and the fifth, Ever Sharp.

Respect, who won the corresponding race last year in such style, turns out again just eight days after running disappointingly at Sandown.

The extent to which the

On the subject of horses disappointing and letting the side down, Ashtina, my selection for the Levin Down Handicap, did precisely that when he was a heavily-backed favourite on the strength of that promising first run of the season at Kempton where he was beaten only a head, a head and a length by Princess Albatross, Silver Flings and Bay Hero.

As that was a vast improvement on his winning form at Wolverhampton last autumn he appeared to be thrown in at Sandown.

The extent to which the

handicapper now agrees can be ascertained by referring to the last season's closing section, just closed and closing in the next few weeks.

Having begun the season with a rating of 71, Ashtina has now gone up to 101. This, then, is one of the few remaining opportunities for Ashtina to race off his old mark.

Otherwise it could easily pay to follow Pat Eddery who has a strong chance of winning the 3.10 Crook's Courage (3.40), Harlestone Lake (4.10) and Thunderflash (5.10).

Sumtrap, my selection for

the Sheraton Park Tower Lupe Stakes, improved decidedly throughout the season, ending with a close third in the group three Prix d'Aumale at Longchamp in September.

She should be good enough to beat the Hoover Mile runner-up Haiati, who was so disappointing first time out.

Finally, Thunderflash looks a worthy pair to win the second division of the Boxgrove Maiden Hurdle, finishing the season behind the 1,000 Guineas runner-up Dabaweya at Newmarket.

Times final attracts 17 winners

THE TIMES
Point-to-point
Championship

Among the 36 entries for the final of The Times Championship, to be run at Towcester tomorrow week, are 17 winners of qualifying races.

If a hail of rain is to reduce the size of the field to the safety limit of 18, under the conditions of the race, none of these will be eliminated.

The race is primarily designed to introduce up and coming

young point-to-pointers to the racecourse proper and 15 of the entries are six or seven-year-olds. Those of other years are not of course, excluded and there are two aged 11 in the list.

Entries have been received from horses qualified in 13 of the 14 point-to-point areas which cover the three home countries, only the south-east having no representatives.

GOODWOOD

Selections

By Michael Seely

2.10 Southern Sky.
2.40 Perfect Timing.
3.10 Sumtrap.
3.40 Crook's Courage.
4.10 Harlestone Lake.
4.40 Ashtina.
5.10 THUNDERFLASH (nap).

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.10 Ashtina.
2.40 CARELESS WHISPER (nap).
3.10 Haiati.
3.40 Terimon.
4.10 Trojan Legend.
4.40 Prima Domina.
5.10 Baldernia.

By Michael Seely

2.40 PERFECT TIMING (nap). 3.40 CROOK'S COURAGE. 4.40 ASHTINA.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 CROOK'S COURAGE.

Going: good to firm. Draw: 5f-6f, high numbers best.

2.10 BOXGROVE MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1: 3-Y-O fillies: £1,804: 7) (20 runners)

101 (1)	2 AGRIAN 16 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	R Hills	34
102 (2)	3 ANFAN 17 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	35
103 (3)	4 BREWING 17 (L) (Lloyd J Water 8-11)	W R Swales	36
104 (4)	5 CARE CELESTE (Miss M Joly) D Blower 8-11	P Cook	37
105 (5)	6 DONA FORUNA (G) (K) G Lewis 8-11	G Stedley	38
106 (6)	7 FAYDAN 21 (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	39
107 (7)	8 FES CITY 17 (G) (Lloyd J Water 8-11)	T Hives	40
108 (8)	9 GORDONIA 22 (G) (Lloyd J Water 8-11)	P Stedley	41
109 (9)	10 HULLMOON 17 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	T Hives	42
110 (10)	11 HUSH COO (Miss M Joly) D Blower 8-11	R Hills	43
111 (11)	12 JUST DIZZY (Miss M Joly) D Blower 8-11	S Whitwell	44
112 (12)	13 KILK THILL (Miss M Joly) D Blower 8-11	R Hills	45
113 (13)	14 LILK THILL (Miss M Joly) D Blower 8-11	R Hills	46
114 (14)	15 LILK THILL (Miss M Joly) D Blower 8-11	R Hills	47
115 (15)	16 LILK THILL (Miss M Joly) D Blower 8-11	R Hills	48
116 (16)	17 LILK THILL (Miss M Joly) D Blower 8-11	R Hills	49
117 (17)	18 LILK THILL (Miss M Joly) D Blower 8-11	R Hills	50
118 (18)	19 LILK THILL (Miss M Joly) D Blower 8-11	R Hills	51
119 (19)	20 LILK THILL (Miss M Joly) D Blower 8-11	R Hills	52
120 (20)	21 LILK THILL (Miss M Joly) D Blower 8-11	R Hills	53

2.40 PERFECT TIMING (nap). 3.40 CROOK'S COURAGE. 4.40 ASHTINA.

3.10 Sumtrap. 3.40 Crook's Courage. 4.10 Harlestone Lake. 4.40 Ashtina. 5.10 THUNDERFLASH (nap).

3.10 SHERATON PARK TOWER LUPE STAKES (Listed race: 3-Y-O fillies: £1,802: 1m 2) (14 runners)

301 (1)	124 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	R Hills	34
302 (2)	125 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	35
303 (3)	126 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	W R Swales	36
304 (4)	127 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	P Cook	37
305 (5)	128 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	38
306 (6)	129 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	39
307 (7)	130 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	T Hives	40
308 (8)	131 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	P Stedley	41
309 (9)	132 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	T Hives	42
310 (10)	133 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	R Hills	43
311 (11)	134 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	S Whitwell	44
312 (12)	135 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	R Hills	45
313 (13)	136 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	R Hills	46
314 (14)	137 OUTLINE 22 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	R Hills	47

3.40 CROOK'S COURAGE (3.40). 4.10 HARLESTONE LAKE (4.10). 4.40 ASHTINA (4.40). 5.10 THUNDERFLASH (5.10).

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3.40 PHILIP CORNICK ALLOYS GRADUATION STAKES (2-Y-O colts and geldings: £3,254: 6) (9 runners)

401 (1)	1 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	R Hills	34
402 (2)	2 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	35
403 (3)	3 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	W R Swales	36
404 (4)	4 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	P Cook	37
405 (5)	5 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	38
406 (6)	6 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	39
407 (7)	7 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	T Hives	40
408 (8)	8 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	P Stedley	41
409 (9)	9 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	T Hives	42

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HUNTINGDON

Selections

By Michael Seely

6.15 Hoffa. 6.45 Batu. 7.15 Light The Lot. 7.45 Temesong. 8.15 Golden Casino. 8.45 Semaphore Hill.

Brian Beel's selection: 8.15 Golden Casino.

Going: firm

6.15 ABBOTS RIFLE NOVICES SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (E778: 2m 10yds) (11 runners)

101 (1)	1 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	R Hills	34
102 (2)	2 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	35
103 (3)	3 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	W R Swales	36
104 (4)	4 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	P Cook	37
105 (5)	5 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	38
106 (6)	6 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	39
107 (7)	7 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	T Hives	40
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Course specialists

TRAINERS: N Henderson, 9 winners from 46 runners, 19.6%; J Casey, 6 from 38, 15.8%; D Nicholson, 10 from 80, 12.5%; M Jockey, 10 from 45, 11.1%; J Jenkins, 5 from 62, 10.0%. (Only qualifiers).

JOCKEYS: M A Webb, 4 winners from 18 rides, 22.2%; M Jockey, 3 from 15, 20.0%; R Gifford, 3 from 30, 10.0%; H Davies, 8 from 61, 13.1%.

7.45 OLYMPIC APPEAL FUND HANDICAP CHASE (E1,970: 2m 4f) (4)

3 0900 CASTLEAFFRON 8 (B,G,S) H Dodge 9-11-10
4 2004 ROSTRA 8 (B,G,S) R Armitage 9-11-10 M Armitage
5 2025 TESSONWOOD 12 (B,G,S) S Smith 9-11-10
6 0000 CORNWALL LAD 10 (B,G,S) R Armitage 9-11-10

8.15 GEOFFREY LAWFIELD HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: £385: 3m) (8)

1 111F GOLDEN CASINO 15 (B,G,S) M Barthelemy 10-12-9
2 0900 JUST A GHOST 5 (F) Mrs J French 12-12-9
3 0900 JUST A GHOST 5 (F) Mrs J French 12-12-9
4 0900 JUST A GHOST 5 (F) Mrs J French 12-12-9

8.45 YELLING NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £368: 2m 10yds) (4)

1 0900 SEMAPHORE HILL 30 (B) Henderson 4-11-10
2 0900 SEMAPHORE HILL 30 (B) Henderson 4-11-10
3 0900 SEMAPHORE HILL 30 (B) Henderson 4-11-10
4 0900 SEMAPHORE HILL 30 (B) Henderson 4-11-10

9.15 WETHERBY

Selections

6.0 Pantomime Prince. 6.30 High Edge Grey. 7.0 Happy Breed. 7.30 Handy Trick. 8.0 Orange Hill. 8.30 Southern Minster.

Going: firm

6.0 ACOMB NOVICES HURDLE (E885: 2m 10yds) (8 runners)

101 (1)	1 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	R Hills	34
102 (2)	2 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	35
103 (3)	3 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	W R Swales	36
104 (4)	4 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	P Cook	37
105 (5)	5 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	38
106 (6)	6 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	G Stedley	39
107 (7)	7 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	T Hives	40
108 (8)	8 ALBERT'S WAY OUT 18 (B) (Hansford Al Mouton) Thompson Jones 8-11	P Stedley	41

6.30 COLLINGHAM NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (E1,713: 3m 10yds) (3)

2 3112 HIGH EDGE GREY 15 (B,G) S Over 7-11-10
3 3112 HIGH EDGE GREY 15 (B,G) S Over 7-11-10
4 3112 HIGH EDGE GREY 15 (B,G) S Over 7-11-10

7.0 KEIGHLEY HANDICAP HURDLE (E1,242: 2m 10yds) (8)

1 1900 DOMINIC 17 (B,G) Mrs L Sidel 5-10-7. A J O'Brien
2 1900 DOMINIC 17 (B,G) Mrs L Sidel 5-10-7. A J O'Brien
3 1900 DOMINIC 17 (B,G) Mrs L Sidel 5-10-7. A J O'Brien

7.15 DOMINIC 17 (B,G) Mrs L Sidel 5-10-7. A J O'Brien

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CRICKET: MIDDLESEX UNDERLINE THE STRENGTH OF THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGE AT LEICESTERSHIRE'S EXPENSE

Cont. Techni in £4. cash

By Martin Control. Techni Control, maker of variable toner drives, is a million rights in expansion into market and further.

The company announced a 50 per cent increase in its share price to 1.25p. The company is now valued at £1.25 million.

Shareholders have one new share every four held held steady at announcement.

Control is paying 51 per cent of the cost of the takeover of the company.

Another £47 rights money is deferred consi- able to the ven- group Burto bought in Dece

Aside from spending of al the rest of the towards reduc about 15 per cent for further

Carr has that Dexter touch

By John Woodcock

LEICESTER: Middlesex with nine first innings wickets in hand, are 180 runs ahead of Gloucestershire.

Of the 15 players who got to the wicket at Grace Road yesterday, one whacked the ball around with abandon while the others mostly scraped and nicked and struggled. The exception was John Carr, whose 136 not out in Middlesex's 212 for one was a remarkable display. Leicester-shire had been dismissed themselves for 114.

Watching Carr I was reminded of Dexter in his Cambridge days, such was the stamp and style with which he played. He simply stood up and thrashed the ball around. It was really splendid to see Leicester-shire's seamers being hit to all parts in conditions in which they must start with, have favoured their chances.

Carr actually forced Gower into calling on a spinner. When Willey bowled his off break just before six o'clock and Leicester-shire had ploughed through 212 overs in the championship at Grace Road this season, not a single one of them at less than medium pace. This does not say very much, I am afraid, for the pitches they have had there, two of them prepared for four-day matches after several days of warm sunshine even this afternoon, nearly as green as the outfield.

This was Carr's ninth first-class hundred and when Willey came on Carr was at once down the wicket to him. His only chance came when he was 92. Whitehead having had to go off after losing in flight a ball from Lewis and being hit in the face. Whitehead was keeping wicket, and it was he who dropped Carr off. That was enough for Carr to take over from Whitaker. Earlier in the Middlesex innings Slack had retired after blacking out at the crease. He has done so on the nets before now — once on England's last tour of Australia — the trouble being, in some way, viral. He was replaced yesterday by Brown, who made an admirably dogged 58 out of a partnership of 200 with Carr.

In the morning, en route for Edgworths, I saw that Carr had seen that Gower seems just as incorrigible after his winter's rest as he did before it. He was bowled for six, trying to flick something away to leg. It was almost as though he was suffering from too much cricket. It might be by coming in and concentrating on playing straight for a while that he would most likely run into form. It goes against the grain unfortunately, but I have seen it work before.

Leicestershire were bowled out in three and a quarter hours, their last seven wickets falling after lunch for 26 runs. With the new ball Cowans had bowled noticeably better than Williams; but it was Williams and Fraser who finished Leicestershire off, helped at the end by a particularly good slip catch from Brown. Olley recruited from Hertfordshire and playing his first first-class match, took three catches before the wicket, all of course, standing back. There were a couple of other slip catches, and when Willey was coping quite well he could find no escape from a ball that lifted at him.

Williams's 18 championship wickets have now cost him 10 runs apiece. He is lively, promising, and more accurate than he was; but the sort of pitches that are one seeing this season, even at Lord's, do lend themselves to false impressions — unless someone like a young Carr gets to work.

Reeve was ninth out and the innings ended amid much hilarity when Gifford, who at 48 is the oldest player in English cricket, decided that his 78th birthday was the moment to try his first reverse sweep. Flitting back and forth, he was left before lunch and Fordham's in-



Anxious moments: Wilf Slack, the Middlesex batsman, collapses at the crease during the match against Leicestershire yesterday. He later recovered.

Champions crumble again

By Ivo Tennant

TRENT BRIDGE (Gloucestershire won the toss): Nottinghamshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 157 runs behind Gloucestershire.

It is not often that county champions are dismissed in one session on the first day, but it happened yesterday. Nottinghamshire were bowled out after tea for 97 and made to follow on, although they were saved from starting their second innings until today, owing to bad light. This is a pitch which helps seam bowlers, and Lawrence, Alderman and Curran made the most of it.

Even in these post-Hadlee days and with Alderman among the opposition, there was plenty of grass left on the pitch. It is said Ron Allsopp can prepare anything; they must have it in mind here that Nottinghamshire's strength still lies in their seam attack.

Northants staring at innings defeat

By Richard Streeton

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire (3pts), with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 245 runs behind Warwickshire (7pts).

Northamptonshire during the next two days if they are to avoid an innings defeat in this four-day championship match. After Warwickshire made 415, Northamptonshire were dismissed in 71 overs and followed on 245 runs behind. On a chilly, overcast day, Warwickshire took charge from the start when their last three wickets added a further 95 runs to complete a fine recovery. Reeve, their wicket acquisition from Sussex, reached a commendable hundred and epitomized a purposefulness, which has not always been present in recent seasons.

Northamptonshire often kept him quiet but never looked like getting him out until he almost gave Walker a return catch at 99. Reeve had scored 103 out of 252 added in five and a half hours when he threw his wicket away as soon as he reached three figures.

Reeve was ninth out and the innings ended amid much hilarity when Gifford, who at 48 is the oldest player in English cricket, decided that his 78th birthday was the moment to try his first reverse sweep. Flitting back and forth, he was left before lunch and Fordham's in-

YESTERDAY'S OTHER SCOREBOARDS

Worcestershire v Somerset		Cambridge v Essex	
Worcestershire (Worcestershire won toss): Worcester, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 205 runs behind Gloucestershire.		Cambridge (Essex won toss): Cambridge University, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 250 runs behind Essex.	
Worcestershire: First innings 205 (110 overs). Gloucestershire: First innings 114 (50 overs).		Cambridge: First innings 250 (110 overs). Essex: First innings 114 (50 overs).	
Worcestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Gloucestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.		Cambridge: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Essex: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.	
Worcestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Gloucestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.		Cambridge: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Essex: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.	

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GOLF

Norman is a prize catch in the pond of big fish

From Mel Webb, Como, Italy

A week may be a long time in politics; in the smaller world of the Volvo Tour it can make quite a difference, too.

At the Spanish Open in Pedreña fewer than seven days ago an unimpressive performance saw Severiano Ballesteros leading Tour officials of Spain to believe that they did not have the British players. This week, after behaving like a small boy who wants all the best cakes just because the birthday party is being held in his own backyard, Ballesteros is absent.

It is only fair to say that if the players and administrators preparing for the Italian Open, which starts today near this beautiful lakeside town, have not exactly breathed a sigh of relief, they appear to be quite content that they do not have to endure displays of penitence like that for a while. Peace has returned.

In any case, there are equally big fish swimming in this particular pond. Or, more accurately, one. Great White Shark, Lancia, the main sponsor here, have thrown Greg Norman a tasty morsel to lure him from his usual hunting grounds in the United States. Norman, who bowled well and fielded with spirit on a bitterly cold day, will have pondered last evening, as they warmed themselves by the fire, that they might well have had Hampshire in greater trouble than even the modest total of 217 implies.

They may also live to regret the loss of Hopkins's wicket to an untypically rash stroke during the four overs Glamorgan had to face.

That Hampshire's innings eventually shifted the borders of respectability owed much to the ability of Nicholas and Turner, and later, a stunning partnership between Mann and Jeffries. Nicholas and Turner held things together during the afternoon, while the latter pair put 59 for the eighth wicket, Mann showing unexpected talent with a sparkling 37, full of neatly left-handed blows.

When Parks fell, shortly after tea, seven Hampshire wickets were down for 139, the score reflecting the way in which Glamorgan had worried away at their task.

Enter young Ayling, playing in his first championship match. His first ball as a bowler in first-class cricket had produced a wicket — against Oxford University. As a batsman, he has yet to receive his first ball in championship cricket. Turner played to Morris at mid-off, sold Ayling a dummy of a quick run, changed his mind and Ayling, backing up, was left stranded by a direct hit.

Thereafter, it was all Mann and Jeffries. Jeffries went on to the end, timing the ball well, until he gave Outings a pleasing glimpse of four, having seen off the Hampshire tail at little cost.

Hamshire's first innings: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Gloucestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.

Hamshire's second innings: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Gloucestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.

Hamshire's third innings: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Gloucestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.

Hamshire's fourth innings: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Gloucestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.

Hamshire's fifth innings: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Gloucestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.

Hamshire's sixth innings: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Gloucestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.

Hamshire's seventh innings: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Gloucestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.

Hamshire's eighth innings: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Gloucestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.

Hamshire's ninth innings: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Gloucestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.

Hamshire's tenth innings: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228. Gloucestershire: 1-131, 2-140, 3-156, 4-167, 5-174, 6-174, 7-183, 8-220, 9-228.

Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Yds	Par
1	380	4	10	3
2	280	4	11	3
3	240	3	12	3
4	260	4	13	3
5	220	3	14	3
6	200	3	15	3
7	180	3	16	3
8	160	3	17	3

Ferrari to go with the two he already owns. The £55,000 he is said to be collecting here will not complete the sale, but it will give him a pretty useful down payment.

Norman, the world No. 1, for whom this is the first of only three trips to Europe this season — he will also play in the Open and the Lancashire Trophy — very quickly found that nothing much has changed since his last visit.

The weather in Europe is still as miserable as rain in the last 10 days has made the course very heavy in places — and the main opposition is still likely to come from players with whom he cut his teeth as a tournament golfer. Second place in the Open was won by Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam.

He would have found all three with a story to tell. Clarke has a remodelled swing which is going well. Woosnam has new clubs which are hardly put at all. Faldo has had his head examined.

Let anyone should run away with the wrong idea, Torrance, the defending champion, has been suffering from an acute case of the "yips", and he has spent the last few days on a course in the States, where he has been playing with a club and an acquaintance. Between them they have tried to convince him that he can putt, after all. What, in more, he believes them. We shall see.

Curtis Cup cheer from Shapcott

By John Hennessey

Susan Shapcott, who turned her back on an American scholarship after only seven months, has returned to this country in good heart. Along with other distinctions she has already won some here, yesterday she came a first place in the qualifying section of the English women's amateur championship at Little Aston.

With a superb second round of 70, four under par for the 5,941-yard course, she finished with a total of 142, four ahead of Nicola Wain and five ahead of her Curtis Cup colleague, Gill Thoburn.

The cut for today's match-play stage fell on 160, which left the other two members in next month's Curtis Cup match — Julie Ward and Linda Bayman — well in the clear.

Two other notable survivors were Janet Collingham and the holder, Joanne Furby. Collingham has surprisingly been omitted from the Curtis Cup team in spite of winning the British amateur championship, and Furby is equally anxious to prove that she is not just a one-trick pony.

But on the day these players, and the rest, played merely satellite roles around the gifted Shapcott, aged 18. She missed only one putt, the first, and capped with a 10 to two lead when the prize came in view. Her only other indiscretion was a one-shot into a bunker at the short 13th and a third putt on the 17th green, where her sister left her with too much to do.

It was otherwise beautifully controlled, in which she claimed six birdies in all. "It was rather boring, really," she said afterwards. Let us hope she boxes the life out of the Americans.

LEADERS SCORES: 142: S. Shapcott (Essex); 70: J. Ward (Worcestershire); 71: J. Furby (Sussex); 72: J. Collingham (Essex); 73: J. Thoburn (Essex); 74: J. Ward (Worcestershire); 75: J. Furby (Sussex); 76: J. Collingham (Essex); 77: J. Thoburn (Essex); 78: J. Ward (Worcestershire); 79: J. Furby (Sussex); 80: J. Collingham (Essex); 81: J. Thoburn (Essex); 82: J. Ward (Worcestershire); 83: J. Furby (Sussex); 84: J. Collingham (Essex); 85: J. Thoburn (Essex); 86: J. Ward (Worcestershire); 87: J. Furby (Sussex); 88: J. Collingham (Essex); 89: J. Thoburn (Essex); 90: J. Ward (Worcestershire); 91: J. Furby (Sussex); 92: J. Collingham (Essex); 93: J. Thoburn (Essex); 94: J. Ward (Worcestershire); 95: J. Furby (Sussex); 96: J. Collingham (Essex); 97: J. Thoburn (Essex); 98: J. Ward (Worcestershire); 99: J. Furby (Sussex); 100: J. Collingham (Essex); 101: J. Thoburn (Essex); 102: J. Ward (Worcestershire); 103: J. Furby (Sussex); 104: J. Collingham (Essex); 105: J. Thoburn (Essex); 106: J. 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Cont Techn in £4 cash

By Martin Control Tech maker of variatronic drives, is million rights expansion into market and furt

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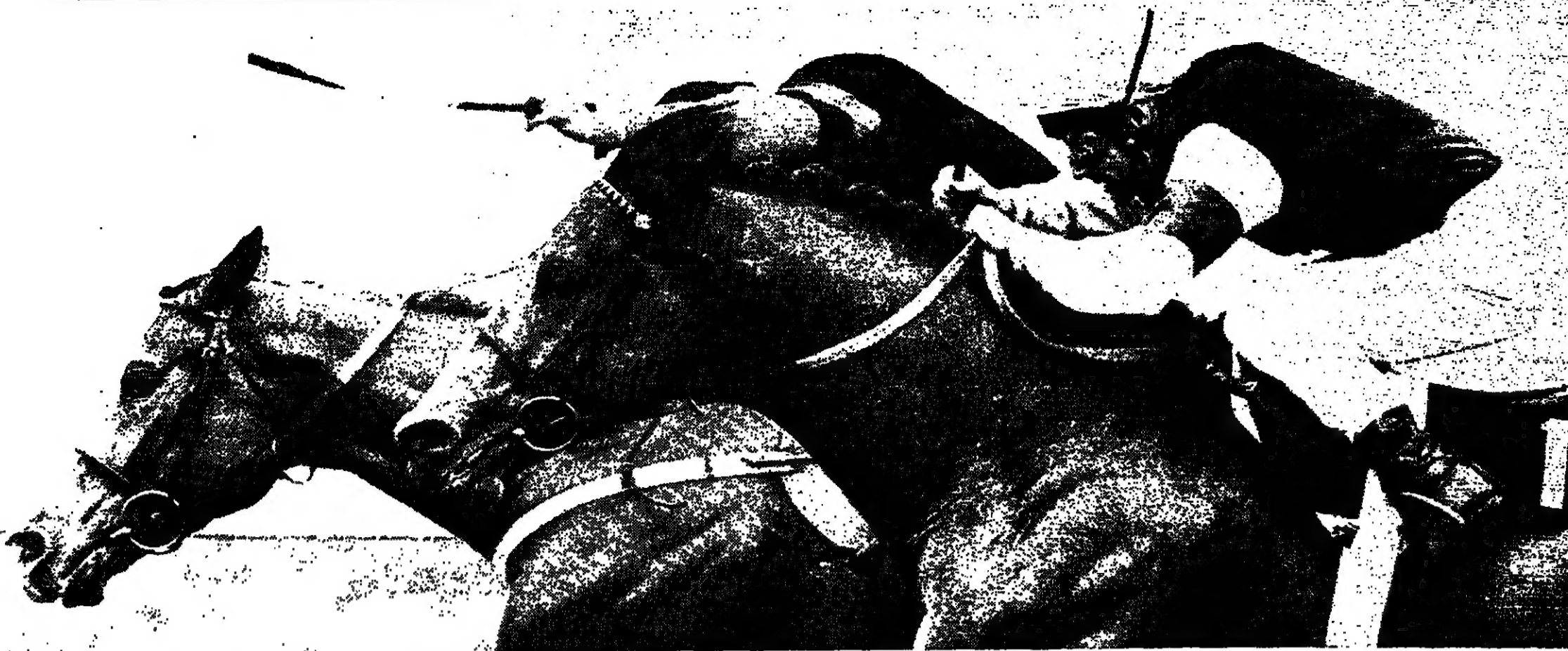
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Carson holds a Derby whip hand behind Red Glow



Winning affair: Willie Carson, on Russian Affair, holds off Island Set and Ray Cochrane (right) in a driving finish to the Chichester Festival Theatre Handicap at Goodwood yesterday (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Red Glow became the new favourite for the Ever Ready Derby yesterday without even setting foot on a racetrack. Unfawala, the former market leader, drifted in the betting after the workmanlike victory of his stable companion, Minister Son, in the Predominate Stakes at Goodwood.

Minister Son's success only served to heighten the problems of his rider, Willie Carson, who also bred the colt. Carson now has to choose between Dick Hern's three intended Epsom runners - Minister Son, Unfawala and the 2,000 Guineas runner-up, Charming. Hern's other Derby acceptors, Emmaus and Golden Wave, who finished fourth in yesterday's trial, are both unlikely to run.

Red Glow had been heavily backed with leading bookmakers for the Derby earlier this week but came in for further late support yesterday following the news that Pat Eddery will now almost certainly be free to ride the Mecca-Dante Stakes winner.

Eddery is contracted to ride for Khaled Abdullah and before yesterday's race appeared likely to have to partner Undercut for Abdullah at Epsom. However, Undercut, the 9-4 favourite, finished a disappointing sixth and is now virtually certain to miss the June 1 race, leaving Eddery free to ride Red Glow for Geoff Wragg.

Other Derby news yesterday concerned the 2,000 Guineas winner, Doyoun, who will now definitely be prepared for the premier classic. After the colt's half-length victory over Charming at Newmarket, belief was widespread that the colt would not stay the Derby distance of 1½ miles.

Michael Stoute, Doyoun's trainer, talked the situation over at length with the Aga Khan, the colt's owner yesterday. "We will take it step by step with him and if I feel in his preparation that he will not stay the distance, he will not run," Stoute said.

The Aga Khan, who has won the Derby twice this decade with Shergar and Shalayan, will also have his colours carried in the race by the Luca Cumanal-trained Kahyasi.

Ladbrokes make Red Glow 3-1 favourite and then bet: 7-2 Unfawala, 6-1 Minister Son, 7-1 Charming, 10-1 Sheriff's Star, 14-1 Al Mufri, 16-1 bar.

Racing, page 43

A close look at open tennis

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

The incoming tide of pre-Wimbledon books has washed up a surprising and exceptional chunk of flotsam. It is surprising because Richard Evans, the author, pays only passing attention to the obvious material for a work called *Open Tennis* and subtitled *The First Twenty Years*.

The obvious material would have concerned the radical changes in the game (prize-money, chairs and official rest intervals for players, electronic line monitors, yellow balls, drug tests, the Olympics and so on) and outstanding players and matches. Instead Evans concentrates on an inside story he is uniquely qualified to tell: the internal politics that made open tennis happen and shaped its development.

Evans was close to all that. A sports journalist since 1956, he explored wider fields as a general news reporter and war correspondent and, more to the point, worked with the Association of Tennis Professionals from 1973 to 1977, learning much about organising players and tournaments.

His qualifications are so impressive that one must respect his judgement. These range from the opinion that Bjorn Borg was lucky, to Evans's choice of Jack Kramer, Donald Dell, Philippe Chatrier and Lamar Hunt as men "whose influence has played an indelible thumbprint on the destiny of professional tennis".

While agreeing with the accepted view that Borg was "a phenomenon" whose achievements were "monumental", Evans suggests: "In a sense Borg got lucky... Borg came along at a moment when Laver and Newcombe had just faded from the scene and



Borg: man of the moment

McEnroe had not quite arrived."

Evans reminds us that Kramer and Dell set up the grand prix circuit, that Chatrier has been an unusually far-sighted president of the International Tennis Federation and that the mild-mannered Hunt ("Lamar's life was always worse than his bark") was the presiding influence over the pioneering World Championship Tennis organization.

Always the author is concerned with the people who made things happen. With the help of much anecdotal reportage, he brings them vividly into focus.

Bluntly, accurately, he states that the 1973 Wimbledon boycott arose from "a revolt by professionals against amateurs who thought they could run a professional athlete's career as a part-time hobby".

On the other hand, Evans goes too far in suggesting that John McEnroe "single-handedly" saved the Davis Cup competition from extinction. And there are former players, Borg and Jürgen Fassbender among them, who may be embarrassed by public exposure of their sexual adventures.

Evans is wrong on two questions of fact. Matthew Flinders, the English naval officer who charted Australia's coastline, may turn in his grave at the consistently misspelled references to "Flinders" Park. And in referring to the Mortgage Corporation national league competition, Evans is far wide of the mark in stating that "every ticket for every match was sold".

All these are trivial flaws in a remarkably good book. The author's study of the inner workings of professional tennis - almost exclusively the men's game - is smoothly punctuated with detailed comments on a few selected matches, among them the 1972 Rosewall-Laver final in Dallas and the 1975 Ashe-Conners final at Wimbledon. In such passages the author's writing skills rekindle the fires of memory.

This is an engaging read and an important reference work. But had Evans devoted more of his enviable talent and experience to the obvious material, he might have appealed to an even wider market.

Open Tennis (The First Twenty Years), by Richard Evans (Bloomsbury, £12.95).

Grounds to confront cricket's hooligans

By Andrew Longmore

Having learned from last year that cricket grounds are not immune from crowd disturbance, the police forces and ground authorities for all the Texaco Trophy matches and Cornhill Tests this summer have brought in measures to prevent similar incidents this summer.

All crowds will be monitored by mobile close-circuit television and no banners will be allowed in the grounds. In addition, ground stewards have the right to refuse entry to anyone bringing excess alcohol into the ground and, mercifully perhaps in a West Indian summer, musical instruments will be confiscated as well.

Certainly, the West Midlands police are taking no chances that the crowd incidents which led to one person being injured and to 20 arrests at last year's one-day international against Pakistan at Edgbaston are not repeated today. They have drafted in 30 extra officers, bringing their total force inside and outside the ground to 125.

"We have drawn on experience gained from last year," superintendent Richard Chidley, deputy of the division in charge of today's operation, said. "A great deal of ground work has been done since then involving a number of police forces and the cricket authorities to come up with a formula to police these events."

There was no doubt that the violence last year shook cricket's authorities and security has been considerably tightened at all Test grounds since then. At Lord's, similar measures will be in operation for Monday's sell-out one-day international as well as for the second Test.

"We got our act together after Edgbaston last year," John Stephenson, secretary of MCC, said. "We introduced close circuit after that and there will be restrictions on the amount of alcohol brought into the ground."

England have to dig themselves out of the selection debate

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

Before a ball has been bowled in this international summer of cricket, England's players are under pressure again. They begin the Texaco Trophy series of one-day matches at Edgbaston today not simply needing to defeat the West Indies but also, in certain cases, to overcome widespread public astonishment that they have even been given the job.

Early yesterday afternoon, as the 14-strong party gathered, quizzical looks may well have been exchanged among some of those who found themselves in the dressing room. Certainly, I have not for some years known an England selection cause such a prolonged public debate, in which the competing factors have been curiosity, hilarity, and plain outrage.

Predictably, the bluntest of comments have hurt. Peter May, England's chairman of selectors and the man taking the brunt of the criticism, admitted yesterday that he had found some of it "unpleasant". But he stoutly defended the policy of loyalty to those who played in the World Cup and added: "We are always criticized when things go wrong and the players get the credit when they do well and win."

For all that, however, it would be foolish to dismiss this England team as discredited no-hopers. The majority of cricketers and cricket followers may get it horribly wrong but it needs to be said that England, on recent limited-overs form, go into this series with a perfectly reasonable chance. They have, after all, beaten the West Indies six times in their last seven meetings.

The tourists have their own proud statistic with which to counter this. Since the World

Edgbaston teams

ENGLAND (from): M W Gatting (captain), G A Gough, B C Broad, C W J Athey, A J Lamb, M A Lyness, P R Dore, J E Embury, C R Prince, P A J DeFreitas, M V Ratford, G C Small, E E Hemmings, G R Daley.

WEST INDIES (from): I V A Richards (captain), C G Greenidge, D L Haynes, R B Richardson, A L Logie, P J Dujon, C L Hooper, P V Simmons, K L T Arthurton, A Harper, M D Marshall, D Williams, W K M Benjamin, C A Walsh, G P Patterson, E C Ambrose, I R Bellagay.

UNRESERVED: B J Meyer and J Brinkshaw.

PRIZE-MONEY: Winners of each match £4,000, men of the match £500, club £250; man of the series (each side) £500.

TELEVISION TIMES: BBC1 10.40 a.m.-1 p.m. BBC2 2.15-7.30 p.m. (including replays). Highlights BBC1 11 p.m.

Cup, which they would prefer to forget, they have played 13 one-day internationals and won 12 of them. They won an interminable series in India 7-1 and then beat Pakistan 5-0 at home. If they are not yet the awesome force of old, they have recovered enough ground for their captain, Viv Richards, to restore the swagger to his walk and a smile to his face.

There have been times, since according to the leadership, when Richards has not put across the sunniest of images. Yesterday might be thought a case in point, for, after a net session during which he wore what looked like a pair of 1920s swimming trunks, he politely but firmly declined to say a single word about the matches to come.

Jackie Hendricks, the team manager, camouflaged any embarrassment and spoke on behalf of his captain who, in other respects, now seems very much in control of his players.

Hendricks gave his view that the big matches have come around too soon. "We have been thrust into it rather quickly," he said, "and our younger players have not yet had the exposure we wanted." On the credit side, he confessed to being delighted by the impact already made by the two new towering pace bowlers, Ambrose and Bishop.

Both may play today as Patterson and Benjamin are troubled by knee and shoulder injuries respectively. If they do, they may well be heartened by the character of this Edgbaston pitch which, according to local opinion, will be far bouncier than is traditional here. If that is the case, a man named Marshall might move into top gear for the first time on this tour.

Marshall is the most important player in the West Indies side, not only for his guidance to the youngsters, I fancy that he will be spurred, too, by a remark from Javed Miandad, of Pakistan, a surprise visitor to the ground yesterday, to the effect that he has lost some of his peace and hostility. A fast bowler scorned is a dangerous thing and England, not for the first time, may end the day wishing that Miandad could keep his mouth shut.

Gatting, beginning a critical period of his career in which he will be relentlessly under a microscope, is planning to bat at No. 3 today but no decision has yet been made on whether Monty Lynch will make his debut against his native country. Of the bowlers, there is a strong feeling that two spinners may be used, a successful tactic during the World Cup. If this is the case then Pringle, one of the three most contentious selections, is likely to be left carrying the drinks.

Base registered

The fast bowler, Simon Base was registered as a Derbyshire player yesterday, bringing to a close a four-month dispute which cost the county £2,000. The Test and County Cricket Board registration committee will allow the former Glamorgan player to play for his new county from July 1, after he has served a suspension imposed because he broke registration regulations.

£10,000 fine for five seconds

By Keith Mackinn

Five seconds of madness yesterday cost Warrington a record Rugby League fine of £10,000. That was the length of time, sustained on a stopwatch, that a "brawl" lasted between the players of Widnes and Warrington in the premiership semi-final at Widnes a week last Sunday.

The secretary-general of the Rugby League, David Ordley, commenting on the fine of £10,000 imposed on Warrington for bringing the game into disrepute, said: "That is all the time the actual fighting between the players lasted. The management committee of the League imposed this fine and £3,000 on Widnes, to show how seriously we feel about the incident, and how determined we are to stamp this sort of thing out of the game."

The fine was made up of £2,500 suspended from a previous brawl between Warrington and Wigan, £2,500 to be paid immediately, and £5,000 to be suspended until May 22, 1989.

Both clubs were found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute by taking part in the brawl, and Widnes were fined £3,000, with £2,500 suspended until May next year.

In addition, four Warrington players and two Widnes players will be called before the management committee on June 5 to answer separate disrepute charges arising out of the infamous match.

Des Drummond, the Warrington and Great Britain winger, will have to appear before the committee at a future date to be decided when police papers have been considered by the Crown prosecution service. Drummond is accused of striking a spectator who went onto the field at the height of the brawl.

Ordley said: "Warrington have been involved before, but as far as I can remember Widnes have previously had an immaculate record as a club."

Scots lose out but still keep a clean sheet

By Roddy Forsyth

The effect of an uninspired goalless draw with Colombia in the Rous Cup match at Hampden Park on Wednesday night was to make Scotland's chances of qualifying from a World Cup section containing the likes of France, Yugoslavia and Norway seem remote. Yet hope for the Scottish cause persists.

If Saturday's encounter with England at Wembley is a daunting prospect, especially since the host nation is a good bet to do well in the European Championship finals, Scotland have the opportunity to achieve a feat unmatched since 1976, namely to get through a season without losing a game.

Twelve years ago Scotland played seven games without defeat but this season the unbeaten sequence has stretched to eight and, if goals have not appeared at a rate of knots during this campaign, it can at least be noted that only three of the contests took place at Hampden.

It is also pointless to talk of this record as though it has been achieved by a single team. As the Scottish coach, Andy Roxburgh, ceaselessly points out, he has been unable to field the same side twice in succession. Indeed he and his assistant, Craig Brown, spent a

Irish experience to test Maltese

By George Ace

Horst Heese, the West German who has coached the Maltese national side since January, admits things will be difficult for his team in the World Cup qualifying match against Northern Ireland at Windsor Park on Saturday.

"Northern Ireland have a lot of World Cup experience," Heese said. "My team is young; the average age is 22. We have trained hard and will play a competitive game. Naturally I am hoping for a good result, but the loss of Raymond Vella, our captain, is a bad blow. He was injured in a club game at the weekend."

"But the players are all full-time professionals with individual sponsorship from their firms, and have trained a lot together since I took over. All are local players with the exception of Busotti, who plays his football in the Italian second division."

It will be Malta's 26th World Cup game. The best result so far is a 0-0 draw against Czechoslovakia three years ago. But Heese, in his spell as coach, has radically changed the team's approach.

There is more than a stamp of German thoroughness about his manner; no surprise as he has been in professional football for 21 years, having played and coached for Hamburg before moving to Malta.

"We are still in the process of change," Heese said. "But I am pleased with the progress since I took over. And while there is still a lot of work to be done, I am fairly confident we will surprise a few people on Saturday."

Norman Whiteside is under treatment for an Achilles tendon injury and may miss the match. "We are easing him through the week's training. It is the type of injury which requires special handling. It will be at least Friday before I know if he will make it," Billy Bingham, the Northern Ireland manager, said.

Games entries to set record

Seoul, South Korea (AP) - Preliminary entries from 125 nations indicate more than 10,000 athletes will compete in the Olympics Games here in September, a record, according to the organizers.

After the Tuesday deadline, the Olympic organizing committee said 10,626 athletes and 4,266 officials were registered to come to Seoul. The largest number of athletes in any previous Olympics was 7,830 at Munich in 1972. The 1984 Games in Los Angeles, which were boycotted by most Eastern European nations, attracted 7,078 competitors.

In Seoul, the athletes will be competing for a total of 237 gold medals in 23 sports, compared with 223 golds in 21 sports in Los Angeles. The new medals will be given for tennis and table tennis.

The organizing committee announced earlier that 161 of the 167 nations in the Olympic movement had accepted.

North Korea is boycotting the Games in Seoul because it was not allowed to become a

McEnroe's squeeze

Paris (Reuters) - John McEnroe, the former world No. 1, gained the sixteenth and last seeded place in the draw for the French Open tennis tournament after Jimmy Connors, also of the United States, and Miloslav Mecir, of Czechoslovakia, withdrew.

McEnroe, now nineteenth in the world rankings looked likely to be seeded at the Roland Garros tournament on Monday, but Connors and Mecir joined Brad Gilbert on the injured list.

Ellis signs

Wayne Ellis, the Amateur Boxing Association lightweight champion from Cardiff, has signed as a professional with Frank Warren and will make his first appearance on the same card as Barry McGuigan on June 25 at Luton. Ellis's defection to the paid ranks means he is out of Britain's Olympic squad.

SPORT IN BRIEF



Gladwin: told to rest

Training blow
John Gladwin, the Commonwealth Games 1,500 metres athletics silver medal winner, has not trained for a month because of a virus and has been advised to continue to rest.

Gift by Davis

Steve Davis ended his outstanding season by beating Jimmy White 2-1 in the Heritage Classic at Leeds Castle, Kent, to win a £50,000 diamond and blue topaz necklace for Judy Greig, his girlfriend.

RESULT: S Davis beat J White, 2-1. Frames scores (Davis first): 66-64 40-67, 74-50.

Drugs talks

Ottawa (Reuters) - Canada and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will jointly sponsor an international conference on doping in sport in Ottawa from June 26 to 29. It will be chaired by Jean Charest, the Canadian Minister for Sport, and Prince Alexandre de Merode, vice-president of the IOC and chairman of the IOC Medical Commission.

American trip

Emma Goldman, aged 14, from South Woodford, flies to California on Saturday for a month's training with Don Peters, a leading American coach, as her prize for being named Kraft Gymnast of the Year.

Bunny Austin

Bernard (Bunny) Austin who for 17 years was assistant referee at Wimbledon to Mike Gibson, has died in Weston-super-Mare, aged 78. Mr Austin refereed the Yorkshire championship for 25 years.